THE TIMES

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THE TIMES

Tuesday

Writing on the wall
Graffiti has gone up market from the ghetto to the art gallery



Kit chat
Dressing up for the New Year

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Our Brussels correspondent looks at the headaches of the EEC presidency

Play up, play up
Christmas holiday sports round-up

Humbug!
Roger Scruton cries humbug to the politics of Scroogism

Arafat splits PLO over meeting with Mubarak

● A PLO revolt threatens Mr Yassir Arafat after his meeting in Cairo with President Mubarak upset even his moderate allies.

● President Pertini of Italy said Americans were in Lebanon to defend Israel and not peace. He wants Italian troops withdrawn.

● Mr Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, visited British troops in Beirut and praised their "skilful commitment". Back page

● Israel and the US are on a collision course over the Arafat-Mubarak meeting, which has upset Mr Shamir. Page 6

By Our Foreign Staff

Mr Yassir Arafat faced a rebellion in his Palestine Liberation Organisation yesterday after the dramatic meeting in Cairo with President Mubarak of Egypt.

Mr Arafat's colleagues in the Tunis-based moderate wing of the PLO protested that he had broken the organization's rules by acting on his own and that they could not be bound by the results of his talks on Thrusday with the Egyptian leader.

In Damascus, radical PLO factions denounced Mr Arafat's move. Mr George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, demanded his dismissal as PLO chairman.

And Palestinian refugees in Mr Arafat's former stronghold in the Baddawi camp near Tripoli staged a demonstration, marching through the rublestrewn streets demanding that Mr Arafat be put on trail.

Mr Arafat, evacuated by sea with 4,000 of his fighters on Tuesday from Tripoli, astonished the Arab world by coming ashore in Egypt to see President Mubarak.

Egypt was suspended from the Arab League in 1979 for signing the peace treaty with Israel. Palestinian leaders have consistently denounced the Egyptian action as treachery and said there could be no reconciliation with Cairo until it tore up the Camp David accords which led to the treaty.

Four of the 11 members of the central committee of Fatah, largest of the eight PLO guerrilla groups and headed by Mr Arafat himself, held a crisis meeting in Tunis to discuss his move. Three other members participated by telephone. Also present were four non-Fatah members of the 14-man PLO executive committee.

A statement issued later in the name of the Fatah central committee said Mr Arafat's meeting with President Mubarak "came as an ndividual action and without the knowledge or advice of the central committee of the (Fatah) movement.

"This visit contradicts the principal of collective leadership which is a basis and guarantee of our independent national decision-making.

"Brother Abu Ammar (Arafat) carries full responsibility for this visit and neither the Fatah movement, nor the central committee, nor the PLO is committed by the results of the meeting".

However, the statement stopped short of criticising the Cairo meeting.

Participants in the meeting included Mr Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), usually seen as Mr Arafat's deputy in Fatah, and Mr Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO "Foreign Minister". None had backed the Fatah rebels fighting Mr Arafat in Lebanon.

Other PLO officials here were divided in their reaction to Arafat's initiative. One, close to the central committee, compared it to the late President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in 1977. "Arafat is in a critical position," he said.

But another senior official, who spoke privately, hailed the move as a master-stroke of diplomacy which would benefit the PLO and increase Mr Mubarak's domestic popularity.

Despite rumours here yesterday that Mr Arafat was about to arrive, there was no indication today that he was planning to confront his critics in Tunis for several days at least.

Mr Arafat was reported yesterday to be in the Red Sea bound for North Yemen.

Brittan may back police gun plans

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, is expected to support senior police officers' suggestions for changes in training and assessment for the use of firearms, as a result of the Steven Waldorf case.

Mr Brittan and Sir Keith Newman, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, are soon to discuss the issue Page 2

Canada's first woman governor

Mrs Jeanne Sauvé has been appointed Canada's first woman Governor-General. Aged 61, she is at present Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons.

Polish arrests

Six people, including two police officers, have been indicted in Warsaw in connexion with the death in custody last May of a young Solidarity supporter.

Angola raid

South Africa has admitted that its armed forces are engaged in a limited campaign against guerrillas of the South West People's Organization in southern Angola Page 6

Bishop alive

Honduras said that the missing American-born Catholic bishop, Mgr Schlaefer, reported by Nicaragua to have been murdered by guerrillas, was safe and would give a press conference in Tegucigalpa today Page 6

Cancer report

A report by the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council says people who have lung cancer because of their exposure to asbestos should be entitled to state disability benefit Page 2

Inside story

As another motorist was jailed for drinking and driving, *The Times* takes a look at the fate of those consigned to a police cell Page 3

GM-Toyko link

In a sweeping revision of US antitrust laws, General Motors and Toyota have been given tentative approval to build cars jointly in California Page 27

Money quiz

Family Money readers can test their memories, and re-evaluate the year's best savings tips, with the annual Christmas quiz Page 28

Kremlin gloom

After four years of fighting in Afghanistan the Kremlin appears to have lost hope of breaking the military stalemate or reaching a political settlement. Page 8

Vatican tangle

American Protestants have united against White House plans to establish diplomatic ties with the Vatican Page 8

Pertini urges Italian pullout from Lebanon

From John Earle
Rome

President Sandro Pertini yesterday startled the Italian Government by saying the 2,100-strong Italian contingent of the multination peacekeeping force in Beirut should be withdrawn. He said it no longer had a mission to defend the Palestinians and the Americans in any case were in Lebanon to defend Israel and not peace.

Talking to Italian journalists who went to the *Quirinale* Palace to express their Christmas good wishes, the President recalled that he visited the contingent in November.

"As long as there were the Palestinians and the danger of a direct clash between them and the Israels, our presence in Lebanon clearly had sense," he said. Now, Italy "risks being entangled in a war which does not concern her." The contingent should therefore be withdrawn.

The President, who is 82, said everyone, such as Druzes and Shia, had their interests to pursue, "even the Americans who, lets be plain, are there for the defence of Israel and not peace, and are bombing Lebanon with tons of bombs."

Saying that the Italian contingent had earned the respect of the local population for their kindness and generosity, he added: "Our soldiers, even if they are volunteers, why should they die?" He expressed preoccupation at the way the Palestinians were being dispersed in the world, as the Jews once were, and said their leader, Mr Yassir Arafat, could not be considered a terrorist.



President Pertini: "Why should our soldiers die?"

As the President spoke, Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Foreign Minister, was flying back from a two-day visit to Israel for discussions on Lebanon.

Ulster Christmas: Mrs Thatcher and cheering crowds amid tight security in co Down yesterday.

Well-wishers mob Thatcher on Northern Ireland visit

From Our Correspondent, Belfast

Mrs Margaret Thatcher joined some of Northern Ireland's front-line police and troops yesterday after delivering a fierce denunciation of the IRA during a six-hour visit to the province.

In a strong declaration of the Government's resolve not to succumb to terrorist coercion, the Prime Minister told police officers and a handful of women widowed by terrorists: "Democracy is the rejection of violence and we are never going to be defeated by bombs and bullets – not here or anywhere else in the world. We believe in certain things very strongly. We believe in our way of life and we are determined to keep it."

In a tribute to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr James Prior, she descibed him as "superb ... and totally dedicated to the people of the povince."

Her three-minute unscripted speech was delivered in the fortress-like Royal Ulster Constabulary station at Newtownards, co Down, 10 miles from Belfast, where well-wishers almost engulfed her at the start of her unannounced visit.

So great was the crush surrounding her in the centre of the staunchly loylaist town that senior police officers chose not to force a way through for her to make an intended call at the town's largest department store, outside which she had alighted from a discreetly armoured Jaguar.

Instead, they ushered her through the enthusiastic and cheering crowd further along the street where she was able to buy a £60 set of Ulster-made Tyrone crysal glasses at another shop, and her husband, Mr Denis Thatcher, bought a shirt and tie.

As uniformed police fought a good-natured battle with the crowd, she constantly stopped to speak to bemused Christmas shoppers, small children, and an elderly ... messenger dressed as Santa Claus.

Among people she met at the RUC station were three survivors of the Provisional IRA bomb attack on a police class at the Ulster Polytechnic on December 4, and a constable on crutches who was severly injured in another bombing last month. She spoke also to the widows of a police sergeant killed at the polytechnic and of two middle-aged RUC reservists shot dead as they jointly walked the beat in Downpatrick two months ago.

"How much we owe to the widows who are here and how much we admire their strength and fortitude in the very difficult days through which they have had to pass," she told he police audience.

The Thatchers later flew by helicopter to several places in co Armagh to visit members of the security forces on duty in rather more dangerous territory. She landed first at Drumadd Barracks, Armagh, where she spoke to members of a Grenadier Guards platoon about to go out on border patrol.

After lunching at Armagh, the Prime Minister visited the joint army an police post on the border at Aughnacloy, co Tyrone, where she repeated the Government's determination not to surrender to terrorist intimidation.

As she left the province to return to London a Christmas message to the Ulster people was issued from Stormont. "I warmly welcome the invitation of the Taoiseach to step up even further our cooperation in the battle against terrorism- ... Jim Prior and I will do everything in our power to achieve peaceful political progress in the year ahead", Mrs Thatcher said.

"Christmas is a time of peace and reconciliation. This peace was cruelly shattered last week in London as it has been many times in Northern Ireland, but the courage and dedication of all those who work for peace and who guard our freedom, shine through like a beacon of hope.

Thatcher's sovereignty pledge to Falklanders

By Tony Samstag

The sovereignty of the Falkland Islands is not to be a matter for negotiation in the new year if ever, the Prime Minister said last night.

In her Christmas message to the islanders on the BBC external services' twice weekly programme *Calling the Falklands*, Mrs Thatcher said: "I want to make one thing very clear to you. "I am not negotiating the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands with anyone. They are British.

You, the people, have a right to determine your own future. That is not negotiable. So you can look forward to the new year knowing that is absolutely all right."

Describing the islands' future as great, Mrs Thatcher added: "We are trying to do everything we can to build that new airport, to rebuild the structure of the Falkland Islands and to give the young people a chance to know that they have the kind of life which they can build and which has become traditional in the Falkland Islands.

"A life of effort. A life where yor are all part of the same community. A life where you do things for one another, and a life where you hope gradually to attract more people and more business to the Falklands Islands."

Mrs Thatcher said she and her family would never forget "the tremendous warmth of welcome" she had experienced during her visit to the Falklands last January.

Record car sales as imports fall

By Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

Britain's car industry will end 1983 with record sales – well in excess of the 1.72 million recorded in 1979 – and with the satisfaction of having beaten down importers to just over 52 per cent of the market.

With just 11 days of 1983 left, new car sales for the year are more than 64,000 higher than for the previous record year.

In 1979, total car sales were 1.716 million but with almost two weeks to go before the end of the year sales are already 1.781 million according to the returns from the industry monitored by the Society of *Motor Manufacturers and Traders*. Importers' share of the market was 52.4 per cent compared with 54.5 per cent a year ago.

As expected, Ford remains the market leader with 31.3 per cent of the British market, although the American company imports large numbers of cars into Britain from its other European plants.

BL was second with 18.2 per cent of sales, well behind its target of 20 per cent, closely followed by General Motors with 17.1 per cent.

Datsun, the leading importer of Japanese cars, captured 5.2 per cent and Peugeot Talbot only 3.4 per cent.

The best-selling model in the first 20 days of December was the Ford Escort with sales of 6,413, followed by the Ford Sierra (5,658), Vauxhall Cavalier (5,162), BL Metro (4,204), Ford Fiesta (3,664), Vauxhall Astra (2,172), BL Maestro (2,082), BL Acclaim (1,497), Volvo 300 series (1,284), and Ford Orion (1,143).

Discount war, page 3

The true lover's bill goes up by £1,307

By Robin Young

The cost of true love at Christmas has increased by £1,307.88 in the past 12 months, despite an annual inflation rate at its lowest for 14 years.

The total cost of all the gifts in the song, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, has jumped like a lord a-leaping by 26.3 per cent to reach a total of £6,277.20

A number of economies introduced last year have been perpetuated this Christmas, but the True Lover's bill is the second biggest since *The Times* first reported the calculation in 1973 – when the total was only £2,816.60.

Partridges and geese are the only items not to have risen in price. Game farms still supply live partridges at £3 each. Stuffed ones, easier to fix in pear trees, can be bought too, but would increase the bill by £348.

Pear trees are now £6.25 each. Two-tier espaliers, at £15.90, would be another £115.80. Pairs of turtle doves, a rare and protected species, are impossible to obtain, though a single stuffed one is for hire at £11.50 a week. Even white pigeons cost £18 a pair.

French hens – red jungle fowl – can be hired, stuffed, at £13.80 a week. Oven-ready French chickens from Harrods would be cheaper if there was time to cook them.

Colly birds – blackbirds – cannot be legally sold, but the *taxidermists' rate is £9.20 for a* week's hire. Occasionally mounted road victims can be bought outright for £25.

The cheapest gold rings – ladies' signets in nine carat – are £18 each, and must suffice. Barnacle geese can be adopted from the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge, at £6 a year each. Swans, at £15 per annum, are dearer because the scheme include a hand-painted portrait of every bird's bill pattern.

Milkmaids, even unskilled ones, qualify for the minimum agricultural wage, augmented this year to £79.20 for the five-day week. Drummers are dearer, partly because this year the Musicians' Union fixed a £5 porterage charge for their kit.

Pipers carry their own pipes and cost only the union minimum of £33 each per session at a private house. The musicians' bill would be halved if they performed in a dance hall or public house.

This year the Ballet Rambert would charge £437.40 for 11 ladies dancing on two consecutive nights, 8 per cent up on last year. The cost of leaping lords has taken a jump too, if they are to be allowed the maximum permissible expenses they could charge for mere sitting days – up to £3.90 each to £16.

The Times Christmas pantomime, back page

Pope issues rebuke to superpowers

From Our Correspondent
Rome

The Pope yesterday appealed to the world's rulers for a change of heart, saying:

"It is man who kills, not his sword and not even, today, his missiles. Peace must therefore be built through a change of conscience."

He condemned injustice, war and violations of human rights throughout the world.

More worrying than the difference between East and West were those between North and South.

Tension between East and West, however, not only affected relations between the superpowers and their allies, but also aggravated already strained relations in other parts of the world.

It was necessary, the Pope said, to take stock of "the formidable danger represented by these growing tensions and this polarization on a vast scale,

Sources in the Vatican regarded the Pope's message as an implicit reproach to the sincerity of both Washington and Moscow in their professed desire to stop the arms race.

Peace, he emphasized, could only be guaranteed if it was founded on respect for human rights and on a feeling of solidarity with the poor.

Identical car made to trace bombers

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

Detectives investigating the Harrods bombing believe they can trace some of the movements of the Austin 1300 G used to hold the bomb as it was prepared by the Provisional IRA.

The car was bought from a part-time dealer in west London on November 22 by a man with a northern accent. In the past few days people have told Scotland Yard of sightings in and around London after then.

Commander William Hucklesby, head of the anti-terrorist squad, said yesterday that the car, registration KFP 252K, was the best clue the police had, but they needed to fill in movements before the bombing.

It could have been parked in a back street or suburb or hidden in a lock-up garage.

The bomb was likely to have been inserted the night before the blast or on Saturday morning, with a timing device which started after the car was parked.

A replica of the Austin will be placed today in Hans Crescent to jog the memories of potential witnesses.

Mr Hucklesby appealed yesterday for people to hand in any photographs taken in the Crescent last Saturday.

"We want photographs from early morning. What I am trying to do is to reconstruct photographically every moment of what happened in Hans Crescent. I hope to build up a chronological picture sequence."

By last night, two dozen had been handed in.

The police want to interview anyone who drove in Hans Crescent last Saturday to eliminate all the traffic and discover if a second car was used by the bombers.

Several times entry into the one-way street was stopped to improve traffic flow and the bombers might have been caught in a jam.

The police operations room will be manned constantly throughout the Christmas holiday.

Three of the four men held by Scotland Yard under the Prevention of Terrorism Act have been released, but a fourth man is being held under an order renewed by the Home Secretary.

A man is being held in Birmingham and another in Manchester.

Since last Saturday's bombing the anti-terrorist squad and police explosives experts have dealt with between 70 and 90 false alarms.

Heavy street patrols will cintinue up to the start of the holiday tonight, although it is thought that if the IRA strikes again its target could be military.

The Yard said yesterday that

Continued on back page, col 4

Brittan likely to endorse changes in firearms training for the police

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Changes in the training and sessment of police officers no carry firearms are to be scussed by Mr Leon Brittan, e Home Secretary, with the ommissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Kenneth ewman, in the wake of the even Waldorf case.

The meeting was announced sterday by Mr Brittan in a atement after the Police omplaints Board announced at the three detectives involved in the Waldorf shooting ould not face disciplinary arges.

Mr Brittan is likely to meet r Kenneth after Christmas. he Home Secretary is expected endorse several suggestions r improving firearms training rawn up by a working party of e Association of Cheif Police fficers, including a Scotland ard officer.

The changes, described by mr Geoffrey Dear, Assistant ommissioner, last week would icrease initial training from ne to two weeks, lengthen dditional later training, assess reactions to stress and give better tactical instruction.

Future operations involving police with fireamrs in London will always have a senior firearms specialist on hand to give advice.

Nearly 4,700 officers are qualified to carry guns in London but that is likely to be reduced to give fewer men better training.

Mr Brittan's statement reviewed changes in the rules on the use of guns and noted that a report from Sir Kenneth had shown "shortcomings in the selection and training of officers for firearms duties".

The Home Secretary said that further changes would take into account the selection of men who could withstand stress. There would be continual assessment after training.

The Police Complaints Board's statement on Thursday said: "during the course of the investigation a number of procedural deficiencies were discovered in the records of the issue of firearms but there is no suggestion that guns used in this operation [the police operation in which Mr Waldorf was shot in mistake for a wanted man] were issued without proper authority or to officers who were not regarded as competent to use them.

"The board are satisfied that these deficiencies have no bearing on the manner in which the guns were used".

Yesterday, Deputy Assistant Commissioner James Sewell, who led the investigation into the Waldorf shooting, said that the board was told that the police inquiry discovered a minor deficiency in gun regulations at Paddington Green police station.

The guns were issued properly and their use was noted in a register but a number of the entries were not counter-signed as reguired by regulations. Two or three entries were involved, but they did not include the men involved in the Waldorf shooting.

Leading article, page 15

Shipyards pin hope for peace on Acas

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Unions and management in the shipbuilding industry are looking to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service to produce a fresh initiative to prevent the national shipyard strike called for January 6.

The service's officials are maintaining close contact with both parties in the hope that there could be agreed grounds for reopening negotiations on the management's £7 a week pay offer which is tied to a 10-point productivity plan.

Union leaders say that British Shipbuilders is asking for too much too soon, but the management has emphasized that the productivity proposals amount to a survival plan

Acas officials have been in touch with union officials and the management, but they are delaying a public approach until there appears to be a reasonable hope of bringing together the parties for talks to postpone the strike.

British Shipbuilders has refused to reopen negotiations with the unions until the strike threat is withdrawn. It has said that even if the strike was postponed talks could involve only explanation of the productivity plan and not discussion of the changes that the unions are demanding.

The 10-point "blueprint for survival" involves changes in long-established working practices and the management has said that a national strike could lead to large-scale redundancies. The unions have argued that although changes in working practices are inevitable they have to be introduced through negotiation.

Ministers have made clear that they are not prepared to intervene in the dispute which is also threatening the future of the Scott Lithgow yard in the lower Clyde which employs more than 4,200 workers. Additional pressure has been put on the yrad by the cancellation of an £86m oil rig order by Britoil.

Mr Graham Day, chairman of British Shipbuilders, is on holiday in Canada for the next two weeks and union leaders believe there can be no resolution to the dispute until he returns.

Airline to fight hive-off

By Michael Baily
Transport Editor

Lord King British Airways chairman yesterday raffirmed his determination to fight any attempt to split the airline. And the airline's trade unions said they were "outraged" at British Caledonian's proposal to hive off £200m of British Airways routes and assets.

In a Christmas message to staff Lord King says 1983 has been a success and 1984 will be even better. He adds: "Now that we are successful you will no doubt have noticed the opportunist attempts by others to demand a part of British Airways for themselves.

"My answer to that is: British Airways is staying as it is united and complete."

In the same issue of *British Airways News* Mr Colin Varndell, chairman of the British Airways trade union council, writes that "people in British Airways may rightly feel concerned, if not outraged, at the proposals from British Caledonian that a large chunk of our routes and assets should be taken away, particularly after all the sacrifices of the past few years."

The British Airways trade unions would be making a submission to the Civil Aviation Authority that the future careers of those who were turning British Airways into profit should be taken into account in any review of aviation policies. "We will be paying close attention to the need to keep the airline as a single entity, with no selling off of separate parts."

● British Airways is expecting a busy Christmas, with record traffic to holiday sun and ski spots.

The state airline is putting on extra flights to Geneva, Zurich, Montreal, Mauritius, Barbados, and Saudi Arabia. Additional planes will be provided on domestic flights too, especially between London and Scotland.

Holidaymakers heading to the sun, mainly Spain and Portugal, are expected to increase by 26 per cent on last year. Those taking ski holidays will be 10 per cent up, with Austria as the most popular destination.

Airmail traffic by British Airways flights is 10 per cent up on last year, a new high. Peak routes for Christmas cards are to the United States, South Africa, Hongkong, Japan and Europe.

Factory bonus

All 1,300 employees at J C Bamford's excavator factory in Rocester, Staffordshire, have been awarded a £265 Christmas Bonus.

The homeless

Sheltering from despair

Kathleen Joyce, aged 20 (left), and Rachel Jarrett, aged 17, are two of London's many thousands of homeless young people who were facing a long Christmas week yesterday.

They are lucky enough, however, to have found places in a 20-bed hostel in Rufford Street, Islington, north London, run by Alone in London, a charity specializing in helping people aged 16 to 25, many of whom have come to the capital to find the streets paved with despair.

Alone in London, one of ten similar agencies in Greater London, counsels about 1,200 young people a year. Its 10-month-old hostel, rented from a housing trust, is meant to supply emergency accommodation as well as training to enable its charges to find work and housing. Volunteer tutors offer courses in skills from cooking to photography and dance.

Crisis at Christmas, which is among the sponsors of Alone in London, will provide a home for more than 1,000 people in a disused warehouse in Vauxhall. The organizers estimate they will serve more than 20,000 meals between now and Tuesday. (Photograph: Tony Weaver).

Submarines

Sinking a few

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

Several hundred Britons will be passing their Christmas many fathoms deep.

They are the crews of the few submarines on patrol in waters ranging from the South Atlantic around the Falkland Islands to the wintry North Atlantic and the Barents Sea.

There will be at least one submarine away on patrol over the holiday from each of the three main groups in the British submarine fleet: the nuclear-powered Polaris vessels with a crew of about 147, the nuclear-powered Fleet submarines, which do not carry Polaris and have a crew of 100 to 116, and the diesel-powered Patrol submarines with a crew of 65.

All do extended patrols, which for the nuclear-powered boats may last between two and four months. For the most part the submarines remain unseen throughout their patrols, although off the Falklands, where there is usually one nuclear-powered boat on patrol, and occasional rendezvous with a surface naval vessel will be arranged

In any case, submariners have their own traditions for celebrating Christmas. They will have with them the necessary ingredients for a traditional Christmas meal.

Full watch-keeping will be maintained, with between a third and half of the crew on duty at all times, but it is likely that the starting and finishing times of watches will be adjusted so that men do not have to leap up straight from a Christmas meal to go on duty.

Among the characteristic elements of a submarine Christmas are the familygram, the "sods' opera" and "rounds" performed by a junior rating.

Normally every crew is entitled to receive one familygram a week, transmitted from shore, but at Christmas an extra familygram is allowed, with special efforts being made to ensure that it is transmitted on or as close as possible to the day itself.

The "sods' opera" is the nearest thing to c concert party that the crew can put on, with as much dressing-up as circumstamces permit, and a heavy emphasis on in-house jokes and blue humour.

To carry out his Christmas "rounds", a tour of inspection of the vessel, a junior rating, usually the youngest person aboard, will don the Commander's uniform and find as much fault, and have as much fun at the expense of his superiors, as his ingenuity and nerve will permit.

Greenham women

Cheering up a damp camp

Peace and good will to all women has been the message at the Greenham Common camp in Berkshire, where more than 100 women and children will be celebrating a cold, damp and dedicated Christmas.

Unlike previous Christmases when only a few peace protesters have held the fort at Greenham, 1983 will be remembered as the festive occasion at which supporters rallied round to show their solidarity for the enduring campaign against cruise missiles.

The women have been overwhelmed by Christmas goods arriving by the sackful. As they sat around their camp fire yesterday, the protesters pointed to huge tents housing food and clothing.

Eva Webb, aged 25, said: "We've turned one tent into a kitchen, where cakes, fresh vegetables mince pies, tinned food and sweets are piled right up to the top.

"We have far too much food and it is in danger of going bad. We have decided to match the police and have made up parcels of Christmas goodies which peace women will deliver to old people's homes in Newbury."

Clothing has also been given by hundreds of well-wishers. Eva Webb added: "There is so much clothing at the camp that we have filled 200 plastic bin-liners full of clothes and sent them to Oxfam."

Money has also flooded in from all over the world ready for the fines when more than 400 protesters go to court early next year.

The camp has assumed a festive look with supporters' cards festooning the barbed and chain-linked wire around the base.

A woman called Briony, who arrived yesterday for Christmas, said: "There are quiet a few children here and I am sure several women will be dressing up as Santa Claus for the big day."

Thatcher welcomes Dublin offer to tackle terrorism

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

There was new evidence yesterday of fellow feeling between the British and Irish governments in the face of their common enemy, the IRA, Mrs Margaret Thatcher responded warmly to an article in *The Times* by the Irish Prime Minister, Dr Garret Fitzgerald.

Dr Fitzgerald observed that the sense among Irish people of shared grief and outrage with the British people was stronger than at any time he could recall. He asked the politicians and public in Britain to join in a commitment to "exclude the gunmen from a say in our future".

He promised that no refuge would be given in the Irish Republic "to any who commit crimes of violence in these islands".

Mrs Thatcher, in a statement as she left Belfast to return to London yesterday, said she warmly welcomed and accepted Dr FitzGerald's "invitation to step up even further cooperation in the battle against terrorism".

But the Prime Minister made no explicit response to Dr FitzGerald's main argument, which was that successful joint action against terrorism required joint political structures. He implied that, by working to find such structures through discussions in the new Ireland Forum, political parties in the republic were doing more than British politicians to defeat the IRA by undermining their support.

"No one should doubt the will of Irish democratic politicians," he wrote, "to tackle the security problems of this island." The gunmen has been sustained at times "by an over emphasis on security policy at the expense of politics.

"The only convincing way that governments and politicians can now demonstrate their resolutions to stand against terrorism is to act urgently and resolutely together on the political front."

Dr FitzGerald has been working on Mrs Thatcher, since his visit to Chequers last month, to be ready to respond to any ideas for political change which the forum may suggest in its report, expected in March.

Irish ministers believe that Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues may be ready to entertain new ideas for attracting republican voters away from Sinn Fein and its violent allies. They are not so sure that Westminster Conservative MPs in general are as open minded or as persuaded of the need for urgent action.

● Dr FitzGerald said on radio yesterday his government will not rule out imprisonment without trial as an ultimate weapon against terrorists.

"Our Government and any other government here would always be prepared to use it if necessary", he added in an interview on RTE, the republic's state-backed radio station.

But he did not consider the time had yet arrived for the introduction of internment.

According to government sources the Cabinet is to discuss intenment at its first meeting in the new year on January 3, but ministers are expected to agree with Dr Fitzgerald that it would be counterproductive introduce it at this stage.

● While he was accompanying Mrs Thatcher on her visit to Belfast, Mr James Prior, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said yesterday: "There is a very good cooperation already, but there is always room for improvement and we could make it even closer. Early in the new year, the British Government and the republic's Government will be talking about improvements, that means meeting various members of the adminstration in the south", he said.

There were no plans, at present, for Mrs Thatcher to take part in such discussions, and Mr Prior declined to detain what new measures he might be pressing for.

Guardian mole explains

By Our Political Staff

The young civil servant dismissed on Monday for leaking a confidential paper said yesterday his action was taken in the public interest.

The paper, used for reports last month in *Time Out* magazine and *The Guardian*, showed that private discussions over the possible shape of employment legislation were held between Lord Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, and Mr Michael Quinlan, Permanent Under-secretary at the Department of Employment.

An administrative trainee in the department in his early twenties was first suspended and then dismissed for the publication of what his employers described as a stolen copy of Mr Quinlan's private note of the meeting.

The "mole" said yesterday that he considered the meeting between Lord Donaldson and Mr Quinlan was a breach of the constitutional principle that the judiciary and executive should be separated as far as possible. It also exhibited the dangers of increasing judicial involvement in industrial relations and disputes.

He said he also knew what his department's reaction would be and thought it would illustrate the nature of official secrecy in Britain.

The mole, whose name has not been disclosed was interviewed on BBC Radio's *World at One* on the understanding he remained anonymous.

He said he had known the source of the leak would be discovered and had resigned on November 30, the day of publication.

He thought it entirely legitimate for the Government to obtain technical advice from the judiciary on framing statutes, but not to get political advice.

Backing for 'bad law' rebellion

By Our Labour Editor

A top-level officials of the Transport and General Workers' Union yesterday supported "rebelling against bad law" and predicted mounting anger against the Government's labour law reforms.

Mr Larry Smith, TGWU executive officer, condemned media criticism of the 21 union leaders who backed an unlawful strike called by the National Graphical Association as "vitriolic even for the gutter editions of the tabloid media".

In a statement in the union's journal, he defended the "temerity" of TUC general councillors, including himself, who endorsed a committee decision to support the NGA last week.

Mr Smith said the TUC general council members who voted to support Mr Len Murray's repudiation of the employment policy committee backing for the NGA were at variance with the 1982 Wembley conference decisions to oppose the 1980 and 1982 employment acts.

"Far from being unrepresentative, the positive 21 will lead the majority of trade unionists in the fight to protect their unions, the only real bulwark against politically-motivated tyranny", he said.

Correction

Lady Cox has not been confirmed as chairman of Brent District Health Authority, as stated on December 22. She asks us to say that she has had no discussions about taking over the part-time post.

Overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 28; Belgium B frs 50; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 150; Cyprus 550 mils; Denmark Dkr 7.50; Finland Mkk 8.00; France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 100; Holland Gl 3.25; Irish Republic 40p; Italy L 2200; Luxembourg Lf 55; Madeira Esc 120; Morocco Dir 8.00; Norway Kr 7.50; Pakistan Rps 12; Portugal Esc 125; Singapore $5.50; Spain Pes 150; Sweden Skr 8.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Din 0.700; USA $1.50; Yugoslavia Din 100

Film chain monopoly challenged

By David Hewson
Arts Correspondent

The Government is to break some of the monopolies of film exhibitors and distributors for a trial period on the recommendation of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The principal effect will be to bar the practice of restricting popular films to big cinema chains for an initial period, which has been criticized by independents in the cinema business.

Mr Alex Fletcher, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Trade and Industry with responsibility for corporate and consumer affairs, said that he would ask the Director-General of Fair Trading to give the scheme a six-month trial in selected places before making recommendations for implementing it nationally.

The system of "barring" has been vigorously defended by the main exhibitors and distributors. But the monopolies commission concluded that it was against the public interest and caused delays in the release of popular films.

The report recommended that no popular film could be exhibited for more than four weeks in any cinema unless it had been made available to competing theatres. The four-week limit will be introduced in the experiment approved by the Department of Trade and Industry.

● Seven of the leading box office successes in Britain last year when the project of the domestic cinema industry, according to figures issued by the trade magazine *Screen International*. They were *Return of the Jedi* (placed second), *Ghandhi* (fourth), *Superman III* (sixth), *Monty Python's The Meaning of Life* (tenth), *The Dark Crystal* (twelfth), and *Local Hero* (sixteenth).

Britain's most popular film was *E.T.*, which took a record of more than £16m at the box office.

Benefit plan for asbestos victims

By David Nichoson-Lord

People suffering from lung cancer because of exposure to asbestos will be entitled to state disability benefit under the terms of an unpublished report now being considered by ministers at the Department of Health and Social Security.

The report by the Industrial Injuries Advisiory Council is a revised version of one published in November last year and partly rejected by the Government Asbestos safety campaigners believe it could cause a considerable change in the way benefit rules are interpreted, leading to hundreds more cases being compensated.

But Mrs Ann de Peyer, the council's secretary, said yesterday "I do not think we are talking about large numbers being affected by the changes

The Society for the Prevention of Asbestosis and Industrial Diseases (SPAID), says, however, the proposals will help to end the de facto "screening" procedures by which, for example, smokers who have lung cancer and have worked with asbestosis are advised by doctors and solicitors not to proceed with a claim.

Mrs Nancy Tait, SPAID secretary, said that in 1981 two thirds of the 417 people applying for industrial disability benefit for asbestosis were refused. Possibly 80 per cent of those would benefit from the changes, she said.

The society cites the case of Mrs Georgina Stanford, an asbestos victim featured in last year's television documentary *Alice – A Fight for Life*. Mrs Stanford, who died of lung cancer and also suffered from asbestosis, received no compensation although her family was paid £4,000 after her death.

The report's chief recommendation is thought to be the recognition of lung cancer as a "prescribed" disease under industrial injuries law when accompanied by asbestosis or by thickening of the pleura, or lung linings.

Soldier 'died of drink'

A soldier whose body was flown back from South Georgia this week, died from acute alcohol poisoning, a Home Office pathologist has found.

Sapper David Mead, aged 23, of the Royal Engineers, was found dead in his sleeping bag after a "regimental knees-up".

A post-mortem examination was ordered by the Ministry of Defence after initial suspicions that he had been unlawfully killed.

His body, which was examined at Oxford mortuary after an RAF jet brought it to Brize Norton, is expected to be released for burial by his family.

The ministry said yesterday that it could not comment until the verdict of an inquest was known.

A board of inquiry would take cognizance of the verdict and any evidence that was submitted, or comments made by the coroner

Oxford Street flyover proposed

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

A plan to build a flyover the length of Oxford Street in an attempt to restore its place as Britain's leading shopping street has encountered opposition from some of the largest shops, including Selfridges and John Lewis.

There is little doubt, particularly after the congestion caused by thousands of Christmas shoppers, that something is needed to improve the street's appearance and accessibility for pedestrians. The plan would enable people to walk freely among the shops untroubled by the heavy traffic.

The plan, devised by the architects, Avery Associates, has been welcomed by the Oxford Street Association and Westminster Council, whose highways and planning committee wants to see it developed in greater detail.

After Mr Bryan Avery's recent presentation of the scheme, however, some companies have written to the association to express their doubts about its viability.

Mr Harry Shepherd, the association's chairman, said yesterday there was no consensus among its members for the scheme. "Some are concerned because it is such an unusual scheme, and are worried at the reprecussions if things do not work out satisfactorily," he said.

Their main concerns include the lack of a management scheme to make sure that the new pedestrianized streets would be kept in good condition.

Most members of the association favour pedestrianization, and the matter will be discussed fully at its next meeting in March.

"My own view is that it is such an imaginative scheme that we ought to look at it seriously," Mr Shepherd said.

Without financial support, Mr Avery can make little progress. He wants to have detailed models of the construction made, and they would cost £40,000 to £50,000.

So far no one has offered the money, although Mr Avery says two organizations have indicated they might be prepared to contribute to the cost

Mr Avery said: We need to conduct a detailed feasibility study, and I am trying to seek public support. It is up to the people of London whether they want Oxford Street to become vibrant and exciting once more, or let it decline into squalor."

He believes that if nothing is done, Oxford Street in 10 years will be a street of cheap takeaway, jeans and hamburger establishments. "The biggest shops, such as Selfridges, will survive but the rest will go," he said.

The Avery design, costing an estimated £47m at August 1982 prices, involves a three-lane flyover the length of the street, descending to ground level at Oxford Circus. There, pedestrians would go above the traffic under an elevated glass dome.

The flyover would take only buses and taxis, while the streets running north-south would carry private traffic. The ground level would be paved and landscaped, and more shops would be provided under the flyover.

These, would be intended to help to pay for the construction, and it is envisaged that the whole scheme could be funded privately.

Farm aid to be suspended

By Hugh Clayton

Payment of cash aid to hundreds of farmers will stop on New Year's Eve when the EEC rules governing them expires. Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, said yesterday However, he was confident a renewal of payments would be allowed at the next meeting of the EEC council of farm ministers on January 10.

"In the meantime I shall have to suspend payment of grant and the approval of any new development plans and variations", he said.

Officials could not say how much money would be blocked or how many farmers would be affected.

But the British Government's contributions to some EEC aid schemes would stop when the Community share was blocked.

Mr Christopher Peeler, a National Farmers' Union official said the union was worried that grants for investment on dairy farms might never be renewed.

Driver kept in custody because court fears further offences

A banned driver, arrested for his second driving offence involving alcohol within a month, was ordered in custody for Christmas yesterday.

Mr Quentin Campbell, the Marylebone magistrate, called for probation reports on Dayalan Somasundaram, aged 26, who admitted driving with twice the legal limit of alcohol in his system.

"The remand will be in custody because I fear further offences judging by your past history", Mr Campbell told him, as he ordered a three-week remand.

Somasundaram, of Ellison Road, Streatham, South London, was stopped in Old Oak Road, Shepherds Bush, London. He was said to have been banned for a year on December 5 for a similar offence.

He also admitted driving without a licence, without insurance, and while disqualified.

● Nottinghamshire police disclosed yesterday that only 20 of the 1,521 drivers given breath-tests so far in a Christmas campaign have been over the limit. That compares with 31 positive readings out of the 975 breath tests forthe same period last year.

The police said: "We are pleased with the results but do not want to be too complacent just yet because Christmas has not really begun."

In Derbyshire, the police gave breath tests to 642 motorists in the first seven days of their campaign. Only 33 of those tested were over the limit, and a spokesman said the results were encouraging and an improvement on last year.

Lessons for prisoner in Cell 4

By Michael Hornsell

Staring at the mustard-coloured walls of Cell 4 under Grays police station for 48 hours has persuaded David Jones that drinking and driving make a dangerous cocktail.

Jones, aged 21, was released at 8am yesterday, the latest victim of a purge in the Essex town where magistrates are teaching drink-driving offenders a short, sharp lesson.

After foregoing the pleasures of a prisoner's breakfast, he walked to the bus stop, anxiously hoping to confirm that his job was still intact and wondering what his mother, Mrs Joyce Jones, would say when he returned home.

He was the eleventh man in a week to receive a custodial sentence at Grays for driving with excess alcohol, and now faces an 18-month driving ban and the repayment of a £300 fine at £10 a week.

Jones, who earns £100 a week, was driving home to South Ockendon on November 6 when, under the influence of the three pints of beer and two shandies he had drunk at a Guy Fawkes Night party, he swerved to avoid a rabbit, mounted the pavement, skidded on gravel and ended up at 4.30am halfway through a garden hedge.

When two patrolling police officers tested his breath shortly afterwards, they found 63 milligrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath – nearly double the permitted limit.

After being released, Jones told me: "It's very uncomfortable in there. I felt it was unjust to be put in a cell, though I have nothing against the police. It was the magistrate who put me there.

"I don't know whether this kind of treatment will deter anyone else from drinking and driving but it will deter me from doing it again."

Locked up for nine hours a day in his 10ft by 10ft cell, he felt like a criminal – sharing washbasins, associating with other prisoners in the echoing corridors, kicking a ball in the exercise yard and participating in the normal pastimes, such as cards and games, which prisoners play to pass the time.

His jailer, Police Sergeant Brian Snipe, said: "We probably treat drink-driving offenders a little better than criminals. They are not here to be leaned on, purely to be accommodated.

There are three meals a day which we pick up for them from Jan's Cafe near the bus station.

But despite all this, they are chastened and ashamed of themselves for being banged up, worrying what their families and their neighbours think of them."

Mr Charles Noad, chairman of Grays magistrates, told me: "We felt drinking and driving had become virutally respectable, but it is an anti-social activity. It kills and injures.

"I am hoping that the stigma of a custodial sentence will act as a deterrent to others. This is partly the aim of what we are doing. Disqualification and fining were not having the required effect.

The rate of drink-driving offences here has increased by 67 per cent in the last year. Something had to be done."

Chalice returned

A seventeenth century silver chalice and paten stolen from St Botolph's Churchin Aldgate, in May was returned by post this week to the rector, the Rev Malcolm Johnson.

Bank action fails and customers stay away

By David Cross

A strike by some bank counter clerks to protest at not receiving a half-day holiday caused only minor inconveience yesterday.

Although the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union had said that most of its 80,000 members would obey the strike call, the employers said that about 6,000 workers left at noon, when the stoppage began.

A spokesman for the Banking Information Service, which represents the high street baks in England and Wales, said that only 110 of more than 11,000 branches had been closed. Many were small subbranches.

Support for the strike was concentrated in Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Birmingham, east London, Newcastle and Tyneside.

Barclays described the strike as an object failure.

a random survey of 30 branches in the City, Holborn and the West End of London yesterday afternoon showed that they were all open, although in many there were more closed counters than normal. There were few customers, who were able anyway to use cash dispensing machines.

A small group of union protesters gathered outside the headquarters of the Federation of London Clearing Banks Employers near the Bank of England in Lombard Street, led by their general secretary, Mr Leif Mills. They were accompanied, by a Santa Claus and a handful of Bob Cratchitts wearing "Save Our Christmas" stickers.

In a lively debate staged for the benefit of reporters, Mr Mills accused Mr Nicholas Cowax, director of the employers' federation, of impersonating Scrooge.

But Mr Cowax said that it was well worth keeping banks open for the benefit of customers, despite union opposition.



Fancy money: Staff at Barclays' Minories branch, east London, dressed up for work yesterday. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Food store bonanza

Christmas taste for the exotic

By Robin Young

Toyshops and department stores emptied yesterday as shoppers turned their attention to laying in supplies of food and drink. Britons, the retailers agreed, are deeply traditional about their festive fare, but for most this Christmas will be the most lavish.

Not only shall we be consuming our usual 10 million turkeys, but an increasing demand is reported for geese, beef, hams, duckling and game. There is still a consistent call for sprouts, but calabrese and mangetouts are selling better than ever as well.

The Christmas fruit bowl will never have been so cosmopolitan before with Israeli kumquats, Greek Lychees, Brazilian paw-paws, Kenyan mangoes and New Zealand kiwis augmenting traditional supplies of chestnuts, clementines, dates and nuts. Yet none of those seems likely to dull the national appetite for Christmas pudding and mince pies.

A spokesman for Tesco said: "There is a move toward the luxury end of the market this year. There is a definite trend away from frozen turkey toward fresh and chilled. We are selling lots of smoked salmon and special cheeses like Brie with peppers and soft cheese with herbs, as well as the traditional Stiltons. People are also paying a considerable premium for fancy flavoured ice creams such as maple syrup and walnut and mango fruit cocktail. Tastes are simply broadening".

Sainsbury's reported heavy demand for its discounted frozen turkey at 48p a pound, and own label champagne at £5.95 a bottle, but it also claimed a rapid turnover in fresh geese, and a rapid increase in sales of table wines, especially the premium Vintage Selection range. Stiltons were selling "exceptionally well".

Marks & Spencer claimed to have invented the convenience Christmas lunch, with chestnut stuffed turkey breast ready for the oven at £1.89 a pound. It also reported selling large numbers of fresh cream and frozen gateaux and Yule logs without denting the the customary demand for Christmas cakes and puddings.

Waitrose reckoned Christmas for its customers would be "more traditional than ever", with large numbers of fresh pheasants, mallard, geese, pigeons and partridge sold "in addition to the usual turkey sales".

It also reported that smoked salmon, big hams, and loose handmade chocolates were popular.

Keymarkets said that its customers were buying "all the traditional lines in the traditional quantities. There is no sign that people are hard up".

● As weathermen warned of the remote chance of a white Christmas, betting men started dreaming of a wet Christmas. William Hill, the bookmakers, stand to pay out thousands of pounds if a drop of rain falls on the roof of the London Weather Centre on Christmas Day (Jenny Knight writes).

The Post Office said it expects to deliver about 1,000 million Christmas cards and parcels by Christmas eve, about 30 million more than last year. Part of the increase is attributed to the six million discount pre-Christmas stamp books.

Among those with the longest breaks are some British Steel workers, who will be off duty for 16 days, including an annual leave. Ford Employees, who started their break on Wednesday, and will not go back until January 3.

An AA spokesman urged drivers to check that they have enough petrol and necessary spares because most garages will be closed over the Christmas period.

National Express was providing extra coaches to cope with the Christmas rush but services will be suspended on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Clergyman frisked in gun alert



Police suspect: The Rev Duncan Brereton with the window scraper that caused a police alert.

From Our Correspondent, York

Police tackled a suspected terrorist gunman in the shadows of a city street. They then bundled him out of his car spreadeagled him after receiving a report of a figure crounching with a pistol in his hand.

A back-up squad of 12 officers waited near by during the operation only to discover that the man was a Methodist minister in casual clothes waiting for his wife. The "weapon" which a taxi driver thought the man had been pointing at a hotel was a plastic windscreen scraper.

But yesterday the Rev. Duncan Brereton was laughing about the incident which happened outside the Viking Hotel in North Street, York.

"They put my hand on the side of the car, then frisked me to see if I had a gun", Mr Brereton, of Bootham, York, said.

"I can understand their reaction and the police were most polite and courteous. They had to do what they did in the circumstances."

A police spokesman said yesterday he hoped the incident would not stop people from informing the police if they saw anything suspicious.

Frozen oysters for 30p

By Craig Seton

Connoisseurs of the oyster are in for a surpirse – the exclusive shellfish will soon be on sale in supermarkets.

Delectable bivalves will be coated in garlic butter, cheese sauce or breadcrumbs before being blast frozen.

Leading restaurants, where oysters sell for more than £5 for six, face the prospect of oysters and chips being a cheap snack.

For Cuan Sea Fisheries, of Strangford Lough, co Down, Northern Ireland, the largest grower of Pacific Oysters in the British Isles, expects to sell them at 30p each.

The company's managing director, Mr Jasper Parsons, with the blessing of the Shellfish Association, is trying to break the snobbish myth about oysters and to make them available to a much wider public through restaurants that cannot afford time or expense of opening oysters and supermarkets.

Mr Parsons said yesterday: "The logic is simply that we have been overawed in this country by the traditional way of eating oysters. Elsewhere in the world, particularly the United States and Australia, it is very often offered already cooked.

However, Mr Rodney Emmanuel, chairman of Wheeler's fish restaurants in London, said: "There is nothing worse than freezing oysters. I have tried them in Australia and they are flavourless.

"We do serve cooked oysters but they are fresh, live and opened in the restaurant."

BL restarts discount war with Maestro deal

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

BL is trying to boost Sales of the Maestro by offering substantial incentive payments to dealers for the first time since the car was launched 10 months ago. Dealers will receive up to £500 for each Maestro sold above the factory's target.

The move signals the renewal in the new year of the discount war, which has been such a feature of the British car market in the past two years.

It will also be seen in the industry as a direct challenge to Ford of Britain's chairman, Mr Sam Toy. He stopped dealer incentives nearly four months ago and called for a truce throughout the industry. Although it was ignored by his competitors he has refrained from reintroducing incentives.

However he has made it clear that he will "do everything necessary" to defend Ford's leadership and its 30 per cent market share.

The Austin Rover campaign will run from January 3 to April 9 and cover, in addition to Maestro, the Mini, Metro, Ambassador and Acclaim models. Factory payments to dealers start when they reach 50 per cent of their sales target for the quarter and increase in graded amounts according to the model.

For instance the Mini starts at £50 and the Maestro at £100, rising to £100 and £250 by 75 per cent of target and £100 and £500 for exceeding £100 per cent of target.

The Maestro MG and Vanden Plas models are excluded from incentives

The latest Austin Rover campaign is designed to help the company to hold its 18 per cent market share until the Montego arrives in April. The new car will be a direct competitor for Ford's Sierra and Vauxhall's Cavalier, it is expected to win significant fleet sales from both.

Disabled trickster jailed for insurance swindle

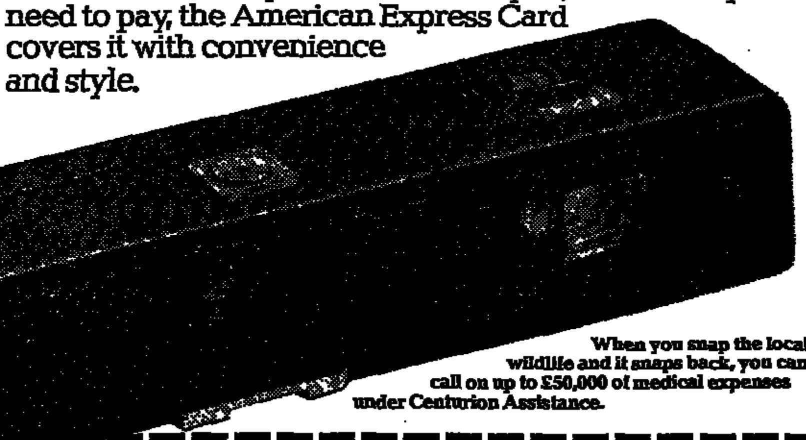
A man born without most of his fingers and a couple of toes, who claimed thousands of pounds under insurance companies' travel policies after telling stories of gruesome accidents, was jailed for two years today.

Sun Alliance paid him £56,500 and General Accident £3,200 when he told them he lost his fingers, part of a foot and the sight of an eye in separate accidents, Mr Michael Hyam, for the prosecution, told Acton Crown Court in west London.

When the Cornhill refused to pay him £25,000, he complained to the Lord Chancellor.

George Frederick Benjamin was caught when police arrested him for shoplifting and searched his £90,000 home.

Benjamin, aged 50, of Stevens Lane Claygate, Surrey, was found guilty of two charges of obtaining cash by deception and one of attempting to obtain cash by deception from insurance companies.



Britain to pick parapsychology professor in the new year

By David Nicholson-Lord

Britain may soon have its first professor of parapsychology, probably the world's second. A university chair for the study of paranormal phenomena, from poltergeists and spoon bending to extra-sensory perception, is likely to be announced early in the new year.

The chair will carry with it an endowment of more than £500,000 from the estate of the writer, Arthur Koestler, together with cash from other sources which could bring the amount to £1m. One university has declared itself a candidate to the executors and two others are to put the proposal to their senates.

Dr John Beloff, one of Koestler's executors and a former president of the Society for Psychical Research, yesterday described the prospects of a chair being set up as "very high". He declined to name the universities, but the list is thought to include Edinburgh, University of Wales and the City University in London.

The executors have to decide by February as Koestler, who died in March, set a time limit of a year from his death to find a home for the professorship.

If, as now seems likely, the executors are able to choose from several contenders, it will represent a significant defeat for academic conservatism. Even Oxford and Cambridge, initially regarded as infertile ground for such an experiment, have expressed far more interest than some critics predicted.

Oxford was willing to accept the chair but rejected the disignation of parapsychology, a point on which Koestler and his executors, who feared the money might be diverted to other research, were insistent.

At Cambridge, where a research team under Dr Carl Sargent was working until recently on telepathy experiments, discussions were held with university officials but the main result was the suggestion of a fellowship, possibly at Corpus Christi College. That did not satisfy the executors.

Dr Beloff said: "We never really expected that it would be an easy task to find a chair. We were surprised that discussions with Oxford and Cambridge got as far as they did. Koestler understood this perfectly well.

"It is simply that science has to be very cautious about recognizing the phenomena that provide the basis of parasychology."

The fate of the Koestler bequest is being watched with concern by British parapsychologists eager to reestablish the lead Britain took in research into the suprnatural with the foundation 101 years ago of the Society for Psychical Research. The only comparable chair is thought to be at Utrecht, in The Netherlands.

Koestler, who wrote extensively about the paranormal, committed suicide with his wife in London. They left behind them a note expressing "timid hopes for a depersonalized after-life beyond due confines of space, time and matter, and beyond the limits of our comprehension."

Another bomb-hoax caller is jailed

Gary Alan Coomber, aged 26, was jailed for three months by Harrow magistrates in London yesterday for making a bomb hoax call after the Harrods blast last Saturday. He is the second hoax caller to be jailed by the court.

Coomber, aged 26, a London Transport cleaner, of Binyon Crescent, Stanmore, admitted the offence and said he did not think anyone would take his call seriously.

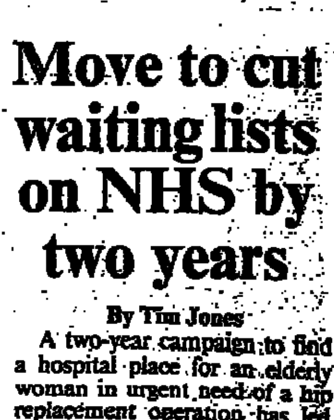
Det Sgt Roger Hall said that after the Harrods bombing, Coomber, using an Irish accent, rang the emergency services, saying there was a bomb in a Debenhams store. Security forces were diverted from the Harrods' incident. The police were on Coomber's doorstep within half an hour.

At Marylebone Magistrates' Court, two men accused of making bomb hosx calls were remanded in custody for a week yesterday.

Guy Gibson, aged 27, who had spent a week in custody for pretrial psychiatric reports, was charged with making a call to the Royal Navy Dockyards at Portsmouth, the day before the Harrod's explosion, claiming there was a bomb at an unspecified London location.

Gibson, who is accused of making the hoax call from his home at the Lindsay House Hotel, Sussex Gardens, Paddington, told the magistrates that he was not applying for bail.

At Marlborough Street Court pretrial psychiatric reports were also ordered in the case of Amira Singh, aged 21, a sales assistant of Rutherford Tower, Lovell Road, Southall, charged with telephoning the Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, claiming there was a bomb at the Marks and Spencer store in Oxford Street on December 22.



Prebendary Dewi Morgan in his St Bride's study. (Photograph John Voos).

Fleet Street's counsellor says farewell

By Diane Guckert

When Prebendary Dewi Morgan retires as Rector of St Bride's in Fleet Street he will leave the door open behind him. "I think what I really wanted to do is say, 'Listen, St Bride's really is open every day of the year', he says of his 21-year ministry.

Sitting in his study, next to the crypts where the ruins of seven previous churches testify to St Bride's ancient history and its 55-year relationship with the printing industry, the white-bearded rector peppers his speech with his favourite anecdotes about the journalists and printers who have been drawn to St Bride's.

Severing ties with St Bride's will be difficult for a man whose life has become entwined with the church and its ministry in Fleet Street. In 1500 Wynkin de Worde moved Caxton's press alongside St Bride's churchyard to start the church's long association with publishing and journalism.

Since Mr Morgan became rector in 1962, he has been a friend and counsellor to hundreds in the communications industry and has served as honorary chaplain to many Fleet Street institutions, including the Press Club, the Institute of Journalists, the Printers' Pensions Corporation and the Publicity Club of London.

"I never say no to anyone", he says of the journalists who come to him under the pretence of an interview when they really want to talk about themselves.

When he retires, Mr Morgan intends to return to the activity that drew him away from his parish in a Welsh mining village and opened up the world to him during his 12 years as press officer for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. He was responsible for the society's publishing activities all over the world before he came to St Bride's.

"Writing has always been sheer relaxation for me", he says of his 13 books and hundreds of articles for nearly every English-speaking country. He has also produced several documentary films and appeared on television and radio programmes. For his retirement he has three books planned.

Although he will no longer reside beneath Christopher Wren's tallest steeple, Mr Morgan will continue to nurture the relationship between the printing industry and the church.

"Communication has precipitated a revolution in bringing the whole world together. The church's role is what it always has been and is even more so, to say that there's one God and Father of us all."

Move to cut waiting lists on NHS by two years

By Tim Jones

A two-year campaign to find a hospital place for an elderly woman in urgent need of a hip replacement operation has led to scheme that could cut health service waiting lists by up to two years. Community health councils in Wales are to computerize waiting list information so doctors and patients can find out where waiting lists are shortest and apply for operations in other parts of the country.

At present this information is available only locally and usually within specific health authority areas.

The project, to be run by the Association of Welsh Community Health Councils, has been set up by Mr Emrys Roberts, Secretary of the South Gwent Community Health Council. He said: "When I heard this lady complain about a two-year wait for her operation I knew there were other areas where the waiting lists were shorter.

"I spent two months writing to other health councils and found one with a new consultant and she was seen within two weeks."

Each community health council would approach its health authority to try to obtain waiting list information. "In some cases the GPs have no idea of the availability of the consultants in neighbouring areas. There could be a three-year waiting list for one area when a few miles away people could be seen much sooner."

Mr Gordon Harrhy, administrator for South Glamorgan Area Health Authority, said he would consider any scheme which reduced waiting lists. "If we were to adopt this type of scheme we wouldh have to be paid directly otherwise the authority carrying out the extra work would be worse off and we are living from day to day financially."

4.5% deal for hosiery workers

Fifty thousand members of the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers yesterday accepted a 4½ per cent pay rise from January 2, a shorter working week, and one day's extra holiday.

The settlement covers workers in Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire. A furthr 6,000 in Lancashire and the North-east of England are also affected.

An extra day's holiday means workers are now entitled to 29⅔ days' paid annual leave, but the reduction in the working week from 40 to 39 hours will not become operative until December 21, 1984.

Teacher jailed for school sex assaults

A deputy headmaster was sentenced to six months' imprisonment yesterday after admitting indecently assaulting girls at his junior school.

Preston magistrates were told that Leslie Soulsby, aged 39, was "racked with sorrow, remorse and self-detestation". Soulsby, who has two children, is receiving psychiatric treatment.

Magistrates were told that Souslby had planned to kill himself after he thought two boys had seen his offence against a girl aged 10.

Instead, he confessed to the police that he had committed indecent assaults over four years at Savick Junior School, Preston, Lancashire.

Later, the ten-year-old pupil said that she had been assaulted several times, but had been too upset and frightened to complain, Mrs Dana Gledhill, for the prosecution, said.

Soulsby, of Sumpter Croft, Penwortham, Preston, who admitted an indecent assault on November 10, asked for eight other offences to be considered.

Mr Bill Fetherstone, for the defence, said that Soulsby, a teacher since 1974, had been thought of very highly by colleagues. The first reaction to the case was revulsion, but the defendant did not advovate that sex involving children should become universally accepted.

Souslby, who gave notice of appeal against sentence, was remanded in custody pending the hearing.

Rail terminus to be restored

By Arthur Osman

Nottingham's Low Level Railway Station which closed 40 years ago is being restored by a partnership of five agencies which hopes it can be a prototype for similar projects.

The building, of which the original booking hall and waiting rooms remain, represents the problems facing British Rail with its listed buildings, the prohibitive costs of restoration and the difficulties of inner-city areas.

The station was built in 1857 as the headquarters of the Great Northern Railway and was a busy terminus until it was effectively by-passed by the Great Central Line into Victoria Station in 1900. The building was demoted to a suburban terminal until it closed in 1944.

British Rail, Nottingham City Council, the county council the Department of Employment and the Manpower Services Commission have combined in the restoration.

Mr Kenneth Dixon, British Rail's community projects adviser, said: "It is a classic community partnership and one of the most comprehensive community programme schemes we have undertaken. It is also the first time we have restored an historic listed building in a way which brings together several different organizations and such a wide range of skills."

Mr Edward Woolrich, of the agency restoring the shell of the building, said: "It provides a range of work for Nottingham's unemployed and the opportunity to learn some new conservation skills. It is good to feel we are helping to preserve a piece of the city's history."

Lung-heart team ready to operate

By David Cross

Surgeons will stand by during Christmas and the new year at Harefield Hospital, west London, in case a suitable donor is found for Britain's second heart-lung transplant patient.

A spokesman at the hospital said yesterday that the team of specialists who performed the heart-lung transplant on Mr Lars Ljungberg, a Swedish journalist earlier this month, was ready to operate at a moment's notice.

Theree patients, including a seriously ill woman, have been assessed as suitable candidates for the operation.

Mr Ljungberg died on Tuesday.



Nanny's mother fined for fraud

The mother of Carole Compton, the Aberdeen nanny who was held in an Italian jail for 16 months on fire-raising charges, appeared in court yesterday – just one week after her daughter was freed by a court in Livorno.

Mrs Pamela Compton (above) was fined £75 at Aberdeen Sherriff Court after she admitted claiming £158 unemployment benefit while working.

Mrs Compton, aged 40, of Glenbervie Road, Aberdeen, who appeared under her maiden name, White, said that the fine was too high because she was a first offender.

She was ordered to pay it at £3 a week.

Car crushed

A motorist escaped unhurt yesterday when his car was crushed by a train on a level crossing at Cookham, Berkshire. A police car responding to the accident and a van collided but both drivers were uninjured.

Change in homes repair policy urged

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Shelter, the national campaign organization for the homeless, has urged a review of the Government's strategy for repairing and improving homes.

Its call comes after a government report which shows, Shelter says, that present policies are not halting the deterioration of the country's stock.

The report, *Part II of the English House Condition Survey*, published this week, said that many of those living in the worst housing are elderly, unemployed or have low incomes. Often they cannot afford to make repairs even with grants.

It said that between 1976 and 1981 only 10 per cent of those eligible took up a grant, with the take-up particularly low in rural areas. One quarter of households living in unsatisfactory housing had never heard of grants, and fewer than half of those considered applying for one.

The report said many people in substandard housing were often unaware of defects or underestimated the amount of repair work. Where they did recognize difficulties and were motivated to tackle them, most of those living in the very worst housing could not afford to finance work without grants.

Much of the money spent went on items that enhanced otherwise satisfactory homes and less than half on maintaining the housing stock or bringing it up to standard.

The report acknowledged that some areas of bad housing were deteriorating rapidly.

A Shelter spokesman said without policies and more money, an "an increasing number of people will find themselves living in homes that are falling into disrepair. Many will be elderly and owner-occupiers".

The organization called on the Government to reconsider its decision to reduce the number of improvement grants and urged it to increase the money available to councils to tackle housing repairs.

Cyanide alert

Thirty people were taken to hospital yesterday after cyanide fumes leaked into the ITT Cannon factory in Basingstoke, *Hampshire*.

Ray of hope for pig trade

By John Young, Agricultural Correspondent

It has been a bad year for Britain's pig farmers and, short of a significant fall in feed grain prices, the outlook for 1984 is not much better.

However, a faint ray of light comes from Japan, which is among the world's largest consumers of pork. At present the Japanese import about 200,000 tonnes a year. Because of high feed prices, they are not thought likely to increase their domestic pig herd in the foreseeable future.

A recent trade mission to Japan, organized by the Meat and Livestock Commission, reported keen interest among meat processors in buying British, and was followed by a visit by Japanese representatives to farms and abattoirs in this country.

At present most Japanese imports are from the United States, Taiwan and Denmark. Britain has been excluded because it allows vaccination against swine vesicular disease, instead of slaughtering infected animals, but officials hope that the ban will be lifted soon.

This year Britain exported only an estimated 45,000 tones of pork, so a substantial order from Japan would be a welcome boost for the industry.

Tougher screening could halt Everest climb

By Ronald Faux

Mountaineers from Cumbria who plan to attempt the West Ridge of Everest next spring, fear they could be the first victims of a more stringent screening policy by the Mount Everest Foundation.

The foundation awards grants to expeditions and its approval is an important bona fide helping mountaineers and explorers to secure other sponsorship from grant-aiding bodies and industry.

The eight-man Cumbrian expedition has applied for the foundation's approval, but so far has had no response after members were interviewed by the screening committee. It is understood that approval may not be given because only one of the team has climbed to more than 23,000ft before, or has experience of ultra-altitude mountaineering.

The foundation's tougher policy comes after research by Michael Ward, doctor on the 1953 Everest expedition and a member of the screening committee, which shows that the trend towards lightweight, alpine-style expeditions to the world's highest mountains without the use of supplementary oxygen could involve unacceptably high risks.

The committee now takes into account climbers' past experience and evidence of how they are likely to perform at altitude. Information studied by the foundation includes an analysis by Mr Ward of 64 deaths on the world's 10 highest peaks up their first ascent.

This calculated that 22 deaths were related directly to oxygen lack in one way or another.

The new guidelines are questioned and criticized by many in the mountaineering world.

Dr John Delamere, doctor to the Cumbrian expedition, complained that Mr Ward was using unpublished material to reach his conclusions, and he questioned whether a meaningful index of a climber's susceptibility to altitude sickness could be made.

"For example, there is no clear-cut investigation that can be made at sea level into how a person will perform at high altitude," he said.

"There are many more factors which must be taken into the equation and it seems that the foundation has changed from a body that funds expeditions and adventurous pursuits into a protector of individuals against themselves."

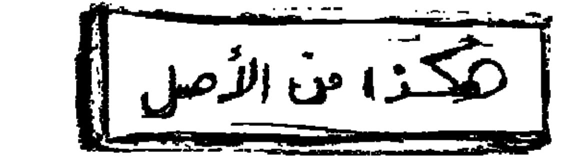
Other Himalayan climbers questioned the idea that climbing above 26,000ft without supplementary oxygen was the exclusive realm of supermen or those who had passed a foundation lung-capacity test.

One pointed out that 19 climbers had now reached the summit of Everest without oxygen, 11 of them on a German expedition last year. Other peaks almost equalling Everest in height had been climbed several times by small expeditions.

Some climbers had lost their lives but it was felt by many that the decision to make the attempt should be left to the judgment of individual mountaineers.

Sir Jack Longland, former president of the Alpine Club, and an Old Everest hand, thought it was highly improbable that fatal accidents to British Everest climbers would show a single case of death caused only by pushing an assault without oxygen beyond any given height.

Human performance under stress depended on too many variables to be subsumed into one single test.


هكذا من الأصل

South African immigrants who dodge call-up may be forced to serve in Army

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Thousands of foreign emigrants to South Africa, including many Britons, face the possibility of compulsory service in the South African armed forces under a proposed new bill on citizenship unveiled in draft form on Thursday night by General Magnus Malan, The Minister of Defence, and Mr F W De Klerk, the Minister of Internal Affairs.

The draft Bill, published in the Government Gazette, and is now open for discussion and comment, it will presumably be placed before the House of Asssembly in Cape Town at its next session, which starts at the end of January. It is a response to growing bitterness among white South Africans at the (legal) evasion of call-up by many foreign settlers.

Under the existing law, foreigners can obtain permanent residence rights here, which include a work permit, without being obliged to take out South African citizenship, which would make them liable for military duties. Large numbers of immigrants avail themselves of this loophole.

The 1980 population census lists just under 200,000 whites – more than 4 per cent of the total white population – as being of British nationality. Some of these may have taken out South African citizenship as well, but it is thought that the vast majority of British settlers do not do so.

All young white South African male citizens, in contrast, are obliged by law to do two years' national service, and then a further 720 days of camp duty in instalments spread over a period of up to 12 years. In legislation passed last year, the penalty for refusing the draft was raised from two to six years in jail.

The scope for conscientious objection is very limited. Religious pacifists who can convince a specially appointed board of their sincerity are offered the unappealing alternative of six unbroken years of "community service" outside the army in jobs chosen by the authorities.

Not surprisingly, the priviledged position of immigrants has caused widespread resentment. There are complaints that they have a head-start in their careers over South African citizens, and that many employers give preference to immigrants because they know they will not be called away for military duty. Many immigrants are accused of flaunting their favoured status.

Under the proposed new Bill all immigrants between the ages of 15 and 25 would have five years in which to decide whether to apply for citizenship. If, at the end of that period, they decide not to become South African citizens, they will lose their permanent residence rights and hence their work permits.

It is not entirely clear what the position of immigrants over the age of 25 would be, and this is no doubt one of the aspects that will be clarified during debate on the Bill. Opposition MPs have already expressed concern that the new law might cause immigrants with vital skills to leave the country and frighten off potential immigrants from coming.

One of the reasons for the generous treatment of immigrants hitherto is that the pool of skilled manpower in a white population which is growing much more slowly than non-white groups is no longer adequate to meet the demands of South Africa's expanding economy. This is bringing blacks into skilled positions where they wield much greater trade union bargaining power.

White immigration has been rising in recent years, amounting to 45,784 in 1982, compared with 41,542 in 1981 and 29,365 in 1980. Figures for December, 1982, suggest that just under a fifth of all immigrants currently come from Britain.

At present, conscription is limited to whites, with much smaller numbers of blacks, coloureds and Asians serving on a voluntary basis. The Government has indicated, however, that compulsory military service will gradually be extended to Coloureds and Asians when they get the vote.



Flying visit: Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, reviewing British troops serving with the peace-keeping force in Lebanon during a surprise visit yesterday to Beirut lasting a few hours.

US and Israel clash over Arafat

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The US and Israel appear set on a new collision course ovr their differing assessment of the reconcilaition between President Mubarak of Egypt and Mr Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader.

Yesterday, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, expressed his astonishment at America's positive reaction to the Cairo meeting, which he described as a bad omen for the future because it harmed the peace process in the Middle East.

Mr Shamir told a visiting US senator that the Reagan Administration had incorrectly assessed what lay behind the Cairo talks. He claimed that after Mr Arafat's expulsion from Tripoli, there had been a good chance that "moderate forces in the Arab world" would join the peace process. "But now, as a result of the meeting in Cairo and the American reaction to it, thses moderate elements will disappear", he claimed.

There were also hints in Jerusalem that the Israeli Government will not agree to any future talks with King Husain of Jordan if he has to seek first the prior blessing of Mr Arafat. But no official stand has yet been taken on this crucial point.

A senior official said that on no account would Israel change its rejection of the Reagan peace plan. "For us this is something that affects our very existence", he stated. "It is a matter of life and death and we will not back down."

The official claimed that the recent marked improvement in Israeli-US relations would survive the fundamental difference of approach to the Mubarak-Arafat meeting. "Our disagreements over that are only an extension of differences of opinion recently exchanged in Washington, over the whole Reagan plan", he explained.

● **Bethlehem guard:** After the recent wave of grenade attacks against religious targets, Israel is mounting an intensified security operation to protect the estimated 12,000 pilgrims visiting the holy sites for Christmas.

A special force of 700 police will be assigned to the sites in addition to squads of heavily-armed soldiers and Border Policemen. All roads leading to Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank will be blocked from 7.00 am this morning with only cars issued with special permits allowed access. Pilgrims attending the televized Christmas Eve celebrations have been warned to carry passports or identity cards on the special buses which will ferry them from East Jerusalem.

The spate of pre-Christmas bombing at targets which have included two Greek Orthodox institutions and a Franciscan monastery, has been claimed by a right wing Jewish terrorits group called "Terror against Terror". The motive for the attacks was seen in part as revenge for the Jerusalem bus bomb earlier this month in which six passengers were killed.

Despite the tension, official Israelis sources claim that the number of Christian tourists arriving through Tel Aviv airport has nearly doubled compared to last year, when the total was badly hit as the result of the Lebanon war. But Jerusalem hoteliers speak of many recent cancellations as a result of the present grave situation throughout the Middle East.

Ciskei court refuses to free priest

From Our Own Correspondent Johannesburg

An urgent application to release, or produce before a court, a detained Roman Catholic priest, Father Smangeliso Mkhatshwa, was yesterday refused by the surpreme Court of Ciskei, one of South Africa's four nominally-independent tribal homelands.

Father Mkhatshwa was detained by Ciskei security police at the end of October after he attended what the authorities considered to be a politically-motivated church service at the University of Fort Hare, South Africa's most famous black university.

Archbishop Dennis Hurley, the president of the southern African Catholic Bishop's Conference (sacbc), sought a court order two weeks ago requiring Father Mkhatshwa to be freed or brought before a court.

Father Mkhatshwa is Secretary-General of the SABC and one of the honorary patrons of the United Democratic Front, an all-race body formed earlier this year to oppose apartheid and the Government's new constitution which gives limited parliamentary rights to Coloureds and Asians, but none to blacks.

● **Old enemies:** Father Mkhatshwa and Monsignor Hurley are long-time critics of apartheid, particularly the Government policy that blacks are citizens only of tribal homelands, not of white South Africa (AP reports).

Pretoria admits to Angola incursion

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

South Africa has admitted that its armed forces are engaged in "a limited campaign" against guerrillas of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) in Southern Angola.

The admission, made yesterday by General Constand Viljoen, the Chief of the South African Defence Force came after a week of claims from Angola that its troops were involved in fierce battles with SADF units, and that the South Africans were bombarding towns and villages in the southern part of the country.

Earlier South African defence spokesmen had refused comment on specific Angolan allegations, and said that South Africa was "only" engaged in "hot-pursuit operations against SWAPO terrorists" whom it would continue to seek out and destroy "wherever they are".

General Viljoen's statement, while still vague, suggests that something rather more substantial than a routine "hot pursuit" operation may be under way.

The communique said that "elements of the security forces are involved in a limited campaign against Swapo terrorists in Southern Angola and are conducting a follow-up operation" to ward off an expected attempt by Swapo units to infiltrate Namibia during the rainy season.

The General's statement does not admit to any clashes with Angolan forces, and the South Africans claim that their only targets are Swapo bases. Swapo has been fighting a sporadic bush war against South Africa for the independence of Namibia for the past 17 years.

Angola radio claimed on Thursday that the South Africans had launched a ground attack against Angolan forces near Cahama, a strategic towm about 80 miles inside Angola as the crow flies, and also reinforced their positions at Quiteve, 50 miles to the north east, and Otchinjau, 35 miles to the south west.

Cahama is said to be the most southerly town held by Angolan and Cuban forces, of which there are an estimated 25,000 in Angola, as well as the most southerly location of Sam8 anti-aircraft missiles recently acquired from the Soviet Union.

Reports of heavy fighting started to emerge after Angola had rejected an offer by South Africa to begin disengaging its forces from southern Angola from January 31 of next year provided that Angola undertook to restrain Swapo and Cuban forces from exploiting "the resultant situation".

● **LISBON:** Angolan rebels said yesterday they would hand over all their foreign captives except Czechoslovaks to the International Red Cross as a goodwill gesture for Christmas (Reuter reports).

A spokesman for the rebel group Unita said five Britons and 12 Portuguese captured.

Shortage of toys mars Sandinista Christmas

From Alan Tomlinson Managua

Children's toys for Christmas have joined the long list of goods in short supply in socialist Nicaragua.

While the Sandanista Government blames the fact that it is the victim of a US economic and military siege for much of the problem, it has *admitted that queue-jumping* by state officials and an inability to control the black market have made matters worse.

President Reagan's trade sanctions have forced the Sandanistas to buy where they can. Electrical goods find their way into the country from Panama for those who can afford them, out toothpaste is scarce because there is no supply of tubes to put it in.

Most foodstuffs are rationed but while meat is usually available, cooking oil and other basics are not. There is rarely any bread because Washington will not sell Nicaragua its wheat and there is little sugar left for domestic consumption because home-grown cane must go abroad to bring in precious foreign exchange.

When the Interior Minister, Señor Borge took a visiting American senator to dine on beans and rice, the staple diet of central America, at a typical neighbourhood eating place in the capital, they ate only rice because beans were off that day.

The Christmas toy crisis provides a neat illustration of the kind of problems facing the country.

Lack of foreign exchange forced the Sandinistas to limit toy imports to $400,000 (£280,000) this year compared to over a million dollars last Christmas.

Shortages of paint and machine tool parts have also prevented the People's Forestry Corporation from achieving it target of fulfilling 25 per cent of traditional imports with toys made from scraps of wood.

Forty tons of toys donated by East European countries have just been delivered for distribution to children in the northern border provinces affected by the CIA-financed guerrilla war, but a boatload of $60,000 worth of dolls from Cuba is overdue.

On top of all this, the commerce vice-minister in charge of distribution, Señor Bernardino Turcios, admitted that many government officials had abused their positions to buy toys from official warehouses while other people stood in line from early morning with an allotted queue number.

In the afternoon the Sandinista army turned up for preferential treatment and the shelves were emptied with the queue still waiting outside.

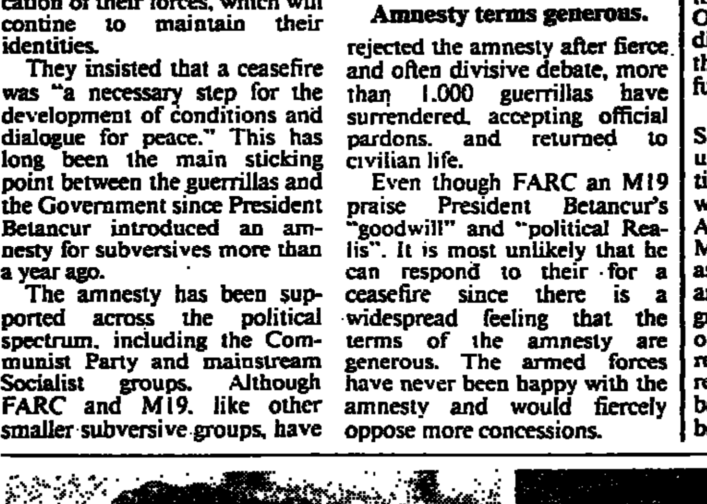
A limit of three toys per shopper was imposed at Managua's seasonal street fair in a bid to ensure that every Nicaraguan child gets something this Christmas.

Colombian guerrillas demand ceasefire

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogota

Colombia's two main guerrilla forces have called on President Belisario Betancur Cuartas to order a ceasefire in regions where they are active as a gesture towards ending the conflict.

The Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC) and the April 19 Movement (M19) made their call in a joint communiqué in which they announced the strengthening of links between them and expressed agreement on the criteria for peace. However, they did not announce unification of their forces, which will contine to maintain their identities.



President Betancur: Amnesty terms generous.

They insisted that a ceasefire was "a necessary step for the development of conditions and dialogue for peace." This has long been the main sticking point between the guerrillas and the Government since President Betancur introduced an amnesty for subversives more than a year ago.

The amnesty has been supported across the political spectrum, including the Communist Party and mainstream Socialist groups. Although FARC and M19, like other smaller subversive groups, have rejected the amnesty after fierce and often divisive debate, more than 1,000 guerrillas have surrendered, accepting official pardons, and returned to civilian life.

Even though FARC an M19 praise President Betancur's "goodwill" and "political Realis". It is most unlikely that he can respond to their for a ceasefire since there is a widespread feeling that the terms of the amnesty are generous. The armed forces have never been happy with the amnesty and would fiercely oppose more concessions.

New broom sweeps out Watt's man

From Mohsin Ali Washington

Mr William Clark, the new US Interior Secretary, has replaced three top officials who served under his controversial predecessor, Mr James Watt.

Mr Clark, who took over a month ago, said he was reorganizing his department's land, water and energy agencies. He is replacing the deputy and the two men closely tied to Mr Watt's criticized programmes.

But spokesmen for environmental groups are not satisfied. One claimed that the changes did not go far enough and that the Interior Department was full of with Watt proteges.

Mr Clark replaced Mr J J Simmons, the department deputy and one of the Adminstration's highest-ranking blacks, with Mrs Ann McLaughlin, the Assistant Treasury Secretary, Mr William Pendley, and his assistant, Mr Dave Russell, key architects of Mr Watt's programmes for accelerating development of offshore oil and gas reserves and coal. They are replaced by Mr Robert Broadbent and Mr William Bettenberg.

Iraq claims sinking of Iranian ship

Baghdad (Reuter) – Iraq said its Navy yesterday sank an Iranian salvage ship which had been trying to save a damaged vessel near the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini in the Gulf.

A military spokesman said the Iraqi Navy sank the Iranian ship as it tried to rescue an "enemy" vessel hit by Iraqi aircraft on Thursday.

The damaged vessel was also sunk, the spokesman said. He did not identify it, but said it was one of three "enemy naval targets" hit by Iraqi aircraft as they approached Bandar Khomeini in a convoy on Thursday.

Iraq has used the term "enemy naval targets" in the past and on at least two occasions foreign shipowners have confirmed that their merchant vessels were hit.

Iraq has warned all foreign vessels to stay out of what it considers an "exclusive war zone" between Iran and Iraq at the head of the Gulf. The two countries have been at war for more than three years.

Iran complained to the United Nations earlier this week that two foreign merchant ships approaching its Gulf ports had been damaged recently by Iraqi aircraft and that Iran reserved the right to retaliate against Iraqi shipping.

In the past two months, Iraq has said it sank at least 16 ships in the Gulf.

● **PARIS:** The French Government has decided to close the Iranian Islamic Centre in Paris and has asked the Tehran Government to recall three diplomats associated with it, the French Foreign Ministry announced yesterday (AP reports).

A communiqué said the decision was taken after the closure in Iran of the French Institute of Tehran and the French Research Institute in recent months.





Back from the dead: Mgr Schlaefer (left) and Father Shafer.

Missing bishop 'found alive'

Tegucigalpa (Reuter) – A group of Nicaraguan Miskito Indiands crossed into Honduras yesterday and said the missing American-born Catholic Bishop, Mgr Salvador Schlaefer, was with them, a US embassy spokesman said.

The 500 Indians crossed the border at dawn. The fate of the 65-year-old bishop has been in doubt since Nicaraguan officials said he was kidnapped by right-wing rebels and killed earlier this week.

Embassy spokesmen said they had not yet identified Mgr Schlaefer, an American citizen living in Nicaragua since 1947 and Bishop of Bluefields on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast.

Nicaraguan goverment officials said on Wednesday that the bishop was kidnapped and shot dead when he resisted anti-Sandinista rebels raiding the village of Wisconsin near the Honduran border. Another American priest, Father Andre Wendolin Schafer, and two Miskito Indian deacons were also abducted, together with a number of villagers.

Nicaraguan troops combed the area on Thursday and found the bishop's car but no sign of him. US-backed rebels in Honduras denied they had kidnapped him.

Miskito Indian rebels said Wisconsin had been attacked but its inhabitants were being voluntarily led to sanctuary in Honduras. They said Mrg Schlaefer had decided to go along with the villagers.

Rebels seeking to overthrow Nicaragua's Sandinista Government have been staging raids across the border for the past few months. They launched a new offensive last weekend, saying they were trying to establish a provisional government in a "liberated area".

Mgr Schlaefer expected to arrive in Tegucigalpa later yesterday.

Bonn buys freedom for 1,034 prisoners

Bonn (AFP) – West Germany has bought the release of 1,034 political prisoners from East German jails this year, the International Society for the Defence of Human Rights said here.

According to the society, West Germany has paid out more than £250m in the past 20 years to obtain the release of 20,036 prisoners. Several of the released had been serving long sentences either for refusing to cooperate with the intelligence services or for supporting the outlawed Polish union, Solidarity.

Sweden expels Soviet envoys

Sweden yesterday expelled two Soviet diplomats and a private Soviet citizen, all suspected on industrial espionage. None of the trio was named by police and the Foreign Ministry released few details on the affair (Christopher Mosey writes).

This is understood to be because Mr Olof Palme's Socialist Government is extremely anxious not to jeopardize chances of a meeting between the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Andrei Gromyko, and the US Secretary of State Mr George Shultz, at next month's Stockholm peace conference.

Man accused of gems trick

Sydney (Reuter) – A 49-year-old unemployed man, alleged to be behind Australia's most costly confidence trick has been charged with the theft of gold and gems worth more tham £1.25m.

Robert McArthur faces further charges involving the theft of diamonds valued at £1.58m. Police said he advertised for contributions to a gold and gems exhibition and the disappeared with the valuables.

Laser system seized in US

Denver (Reuter) – Customs officers seized a laser system bound for the Soviet union and filled the four crates, housing the equipment, with concrete before sending them on to Moscow.

Norman Comersford, aged 38, a British citizen with permanent US resident status, and Bruce Adamski, aged 30, were arrested on charges of violating arms export controls.

Quake kills 200

Dakar (AFP) – More than 200 people were killed and about 300 were injured in an earthquake on Thursday in the West African state of Guinea, according to Radio Conakry, monitored in Senegal.

Fatal error

Bulawayo (AP) – Peter Sibanda, aged 27, was electrocuted here last month when he ignored his wife's advice and tried to charge his car battery from an overhead power cable, a Bulawayo inquest was told.

Bodies returned

Bangkok (AFP) – Laos has returned the bodies of an unspecified number of American soldiers reported missing in action and whose bodies were found at the site of an 11-year-old plane crash.

Brazil lynching

São Paulo (AP) – Three bandits, one of them a 13-year-old boy, who had terrorized people in a São Paulo suburb, were beaten and stabbed to death by an angry mob.

Freedom swim

Berlin (AP) – Two West German border guards escaped to West Berlin yesterday by swimming across the Teltow Canal on the edge of the communist sector.

Monk jailed

Seoul (AFP) – A 34-year-old South Korean Buddhist monk has been sentenced to life imprisonment for killing a fellow monk in a fight over the control of a temple last August.

Aid to Africa

Britain is providing £250,000 to help drought victims in Mozambique. In Lagos, it was announced that the United States is to lend Nigeria £170m to help to combat drought.

Disco toll rises

Madrid (AP) - The death toll from last week's fire at a crowded disco here climbed to 81 yesterday after firemen recovered two more bodies from the rubble.

Milan blaze

Milan (AP) – A fire in a crowded restaurant here killed five customers and injured at least six. The blaze was caused by a gas container exploding.

Correction

The Spanish Embassy says that Juan Domingo Martinez, whose extradition to Spain has been refused by the French Government, was condemned in July, 1983, in his absence, to 10 years imprisonment, not to death, as stated in a report on December 15.

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Soviet Union loses hope of ending Afghan war four years after invasion

From Richard Owen, Moscow

As the war in Afghanistan approaches its fifth year, diplomats in Moscow say the Kremlin shows little optimism about the chances of a political settlement or an end to the military stalemate.

President Andropov gave some signs shortly after taking office of seeking ways out of the Afghan impasse. The Soviet occupation of Afghanistan has complicated Soviet relations with China, the Muslim countries and the West. It is also unpopular at home, although discontent is rarely voiced. But over the past year the Soviet press has been unusually frank about casualties and setbacks.

In April, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General, took up Mr Andropov's invitation to visit Moscow for talks on the Afghan crisis, and said afterwards he saw signs of flexibility, without saying what they were. Nine months on, Russia's justification for its occupation of Afghanistan remains exactly what it was a year ago, when Pravda insisted on international recognition of the Soviet-installed Babrak Karmal regime and said a withdrawal of Soviet powers agreed to stop the "imperialist interference" which had made Soviet intervention necessary in the first place.

The latest Soviet commentaries marking the fourth anniversary of the December, 1979, invasion vehemently attack "imperialist reactionaries and Afghan counter-revolutionaries" – Soviet jargon for the *Mujahidin* – for their shared "Pathological hatred for progressive change in Afghanistan."

Diplomats said Soviet relations with Pakistan had worsened over the past year rather than improved. This week, the Soviet ambassador in Islamabad had accused Pakistan of arming and supporting the rebels, and warned Islamabad that Moscow and Kabul would "retaliate".

UN sponsored talks involving Islamabad, Kabul and Señor Diego Cordovez, the UN special envoy, have made no obvious progress, despite occasional hints of "movement" that matched suggestions of "flexibility" in Moscow.

Any loss of momentum is partly attributable to President Andropov's prolonged illness and absence from public life, which diplomats say has also affected other key policy areas. But Moscow's support for Mr Karmal, and its insistence on "imperialist" guarantees of non-intervention, make the Afghan problem as intractable politically as it is militarily.

Asian diplomats point out that the true cost of the operation remains hidden in Moscow's defence budget, and that the Russians are prepared for a drawn out war of attrition.

Diplomats believe that since Moscow gains important strategic advantages from its presence in Afghanistan, the Kremlin has decided to settle for a prolonged and unpleasant conflict unless East-West relations improve to the point where concessions over Afghanistan become part of a move to restore détente.

"Russia may have suffered 5,000 casualties in four years", one diplomat remarked, "and is ritually condemned at the UN every November, but that on its own is not enough to make it withdraw".

Christmas in Russia with Grandfather Frost and his Snow Maiden

A bottle for a yolka or a sosna

Which do you prefer, a *yolka* or a *sosna*? is a question which throws most foreigners here at Christmas. After all, a Christmas tree is a Christmas tree – except in Russia. Strictly speaking it is a new year tree that a Russian puts in his living room since Christmas is not a public holiday and in the *Orthodox* calendar does not occur until January. Besides, the atheist Soviet state firmly discourages observance of religious festivals.

To meet the natural demand for end-of-year rituals New Year's Day has become the focus of Soviet celebrations, complete with all the commercialized trappings familiar in the West: seasonal greetings cards, packed toy shops, excessive eating and drinking, and of course *yolkas* and *sosnas* decorated with gaily coloured baubles and lights. a *yolka*, for the record, is a fir tree, and a *sosna* is a pine. Most Russians have *yolkas*, but those whose help we enlisted in the search for a tree were under the unshakeable impression that West Europeans go in for pines. Consequently a splendid *sosna* now stands in the window of *The Times* flat above the traffic of Kutuzovsky Prospekt, a cheerful sight for pedestrians and for officials whizzing past in Zils and Volgas.

Getting hold of a tree is not all that easy, and can involve traditional Russian ingenuity and wheeler-dealing. You can buy them in markets dotted round Moscow, and at five or six roubles each (£4-£5) they are not too expensive. But as usual with desirable goods, there are often enormous queues.

Some Russians risk the wrath of the authorities by venturing into the state-protected woods near the city and taking an axe to the *yolka* of their choice. But there is a stiff fine for *yolka*-lifting, and any foreigner caught in hand would no doubt find himself charged with theft of state property and on the next plane home.

Westerners can order a tree officially, provided they remember to write a letter well in advance. Those who panic as Christmas approaches tree-less can turn to a fixer, on of the invaluable middlemen who keep the wheels of the Soviet system working by finding ways round red tape and discreetly making the connexion between demand and supply.

One colleague slipped a Russian acquaintance two bottles of vodka (unsure of the going rate) and asked him to put in a word with a friendly forester. Back came the man the next day with two *yolkas*. "But I only asked for one" my colleague said. "Two bottles, two trees" came the reply.

There was a time when foreigners in Moscow would enter the snow-bound forests with official sanction and ride round on a Russian sleigh to select their tree. Unfortunately, so Moscow legend has it, the sleigh rides became uproarious fun and were stopped. Nowadays you can take a romantic troika ride only within the tamer confines of the Moscow Park of Economic Achievements. By and large it is now children who ride round the snow covered city streets in tiny sledges pulled by their mothers, usually in the general direction of Moscow's huge toy shops.

In Children's World, the main such store (next to KGB headquarters curiously enough), Father Christmas – known in Russia as Grandfather Frost – entertains young Muscovites in his familiar red robes and cotton wool beard for an hour each day (The plan only allows him an hour, and he has norms to fulfill elsewhere).

For five roubles a Dial-a-Santa service will bring Grandfather Frost to your home, provided you supply him with toys beforehand and a nip of vodka afterwards. He is invariably accompanied by a Snow Maiden, a product of the Russian imagination with no Western counterpart. Racy thoughts about frolics in the snow should be banished, however, since the Snow Maiden in her tightly buttoned, sparkling white outfit has a chaste and frosty manner to match.

The toys in Santa's sack do not include video game or Action Man, but Children's World products are remarkably good value. Some, such as tin lorries with sharp edges or cuddly bears with detachable eyes, would not pass British safety standards. But Russian children love the imaginative glove puppets and carved wooden toys, not to mention replicas of Soviet tanks and guns, swiftly snapped up by small boys apparently unaware that war toys are supposed to be ideologically unsound and only sold in the militaristic West.

This year the throng in Children's World and The House of Toys has been swelled by harassed parents from the foreign community, many of whom had intended to return to the West rather than sample a Russian Christmas. Carefully laid plans were upset by President Andropov himself, whose illness has delayed scheduled meetings of the Central Committee and Supreme Soviet (normally held in November) until the last possible moment.

The Central Committee now meets next Monday, making Boxing Day a working day for foreign diplomats and correspondents when they might have expected to be quietly recovering from too much imported Christmas pudding and brandy butter.

Richard Owen



Tree-time: A Moscow family heading home with their yolka (fir tree).

Greeks turn down inquiry into journalists

From Marvin Howe New York Times Athens

Greece has rejected a request from the country's largest-selling newspaper for an investigation of six Western journalists on charges that they are involved in a conspiracy against the freedom and interests of the Greek people.

The Government said there was no evidence to support the accusations, made in a leading article by the newspaper *Ethnos*.

The journalists had appeared as character witnesses for a Cypriot reporter, Paul Anastasiades, who was sentenced last week to two years in prison on charges of having libelled the publisher of *Ethnos*.

The case centered on Mr Anastasiades's book *Take the Nation in Your Hands* and a promotional press release he had written. Thet said *Ethnos* had links with the disinformation department of the KGB and that the publisher, Mr George Bobolas, was an agent of influence for the Soviet Union.

Ethnos said in a leading article last week that the witnesses for Mr Anastasiades had been moving easily under the protective cloak of international journalism while in reality they were organs of dark forces viciously fighting the freedom and interests of the Greek people.

The journalists protested to the Foreign Press Association here and the association made a formal protest on their behalf to the Government. The reply was delivered to the six journalists – Michael Stapinker of *Maclean's* magazine of Canada, Albert Coerant of Dutch Radio and Television, John Rogos of United Press International, Werner Rieder of *Der Tagesspiegel*, of Berlin, Lee Stokes of the *Mail on Sunday* of London and *USA Today*, and myself.

The Government's reply was contained in a letter to the Foreign Press Association by Mr Dimitris Maroudas, the Under Secretary of Press and Information. It said of the journalists and the *Ethnos* charges against them. "There is no evidence whatsoever to support allegations that they exercise any profession of activity other than that of correspondent.

"The Government does not approve of these allegations, but on the contrary the Government disapproves of the attacks which occur from time to time against foreign correspondents, and it is determined to defend the integrity of all accredited foreign correspondents and the free exercise of their profession in this country."

The journalists' protest to the Foreign Press Association cited what they described as their unfair treatment at the trial and the tendentious and incorrect reports by *Ethnos*.

At the penal court trial, held as a result of a libel suit brought by Mr Bobolas, the plaintiff's attorneys denounced the defendant as a foreigner with no right to comment on Greek newspapers.

Anastasiades writes under the name Paul Anastasi as a correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph* of London and a part-time correspondent for *The New York Times* with his witness, he was accused by the plaintiff's lawyer's of being a foreign agent implicated in a plot against the Greek people.

After a four-day trial, the three judges convicted Mr Anastasiades of slanderous defamation, or spreading libel knowing that it was untrue.

Woman who wanted to starve force-fed

From Trevor Fishlock New York

The tragic story of Elizabeth Bouvia has touched millions of Americans. She is now being fed through a tube in hospital having lost her court battle to be allowed to starve and end what she says is a life not worth living.

A judge ordered the hospital to force-feed her after being told she had been refusing food and was in serious danger of dying.

Mrs Bouvia, who is 26, was born with cerebral palsy and is almost completely paralysed. She can only talk, chew, and operate the control stick of her wheelchair. She cannot feed herself, and needs assistance with all her functions.

Nevertheless, her life has been one of courageous struggle and she has earned a degree in social work.

Three months ago, after her brief marriage ended, she went into a California hospital, and said she wanted to starve. When doctors insisted on feeding her, she went to court in Riverside near Los Angeles to seek an order preventing doctors from force feeding her.

She told the judge she would rather die than continue a life which, "at times is humiliating and disgusting." She said she had the right to die in hospital with the support of pain killing drugs and hygienic care.

Her action started a controversy. Many people say she has the right to end her life, but the hospital said in court that she was not terminally ill, and that doctors could not be accomplices to suicide.

Mrs Bouvia was yesterday being fed intravenously.

Why Invincible will not be visiting Japan

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The British aircraft carrier, Invincible, will not visit Japan, it was officially confirmed yesterday.

Sources, however, said that she was likely to go into dry dock in Singapore to have faults in bearings on a propellor shaft repaired. Both moves stem from the lack of enthusiasm which some countries have for *receiving vessels carrying nuclear weapons*.

Consultations over a visit to Japan had been going on for a long time Japan had said it was willing to receive the ship, but had emphasized its policy of not admitting nuclear weapons.

Britain has stuck to its policy of refusing to say whether its essels are carrying nuclear weapons. although it is likely that there are nuclear depth charges on board Invincible.

The suit is that the Ministry of Defence yesterday said that a visit by Invincible o her escorts to Japan "would not be timely".

Invincible is now in Australia, and her arrival in Sydney earlier this week was greeted by anti-nuclear demonstrations. If she goes to Singapore for repairs after Christmas, as seems likely, it will be because Australia originally refused to allow her into drydock.

Australia subsequently withdrew its objections, but by then negotiations with Singapore were advanced, and Britain declined to use Australia.

An alternative to Singapore is the United States naval base at Subic Bay in the Philippines.

White House in Vatican tangle

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

American plans to follow the example set by Britain three years ago and establish diplomatic relations with the Vatican are meeting unexpected resistance from non-Roman Catholic churches in the United States.

Protestants have got together to lobby the White House and Congress, arguing that it would violate the constitutional principle of separation of church and state. they have been jioned by the American Jewish Congress which says it would be a mistake for the Government to relate to any particular religious body in a preferential way.

Unlike some religious disputes, this one is being conducted in a gentlemanly fashion. Recognizing the influence of the Roman Catholic Church, which has more than 50 million followers in the US. The Protestants insist they are not trying to oppose the move simply because it is supported by most Catholics. "We are not at war with them", and official for the (Protestant) National Council of Churches said.

For its part, the Catholic hierarchy, while privately welcoming America's belated attempt to follow 107 other nations which already have diplommatic ties with the Vatican, professes to be officially neutral.

Administration moves to establish relations follow a congressional decision last November to repeal an 1867 law which prohibited the use of Federal funds to maintain a diplomatic mission to the Papacy.

Earlier this month, the White House conceded that it was moving in the direction of establishing formal ties, but denied reports that Mr William Wilson, the President's personal but unofficial envoy to the Holy See, would become a fully-fledged ambassador.

Moves to formalize relations owe much to the efforts of Senator Richard Lugar (Republican, Indiana) who met the Pope earlier this year. Senator Lugar, a Presbyterian, said afterwards that the Pope deserved credit for transforming the Vatican into a "significant political force for decency in the world".

The Establishment of relations would, he argued, recognize the Pope as leader of a sovereign state which is playing an increasingly important role in world affairs. Protestant opponents, acknowledging the case with which Congress approved the repeal of the 1867 law, have conceded that theirs is an uphill battle. But they intend to carry on fighting.

Yevtushenko falls foul of the Kremlin

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Yevgeny Yevtushenko, Russia's best-known poet, has been bitterly attacked in a Soviet journal in terms which suggest that he has incurred the Kremlin's displeasure.

Yevtushenko, sometimes criticized in the West for compromising with the authorities, was recently feted on his fiftieth birthday by the official press but he has remained something of an irritant with his individual and unorthodox style.

His novel, *Berry Places*, has come under fire in *Nash Sovremennik* (Our Contemporary) for its frank description of the Stalinist terror of the 1930s, including the killing and internment of peasants during enforced collectivization of agriculture.

In the novel, Yevtushenko describes how the campaign against allegedly rich peasants (kulaks) became indiscriminate. In areas like his native Siberia, where kulaks were few or nonexistent, police rounded up ordinary peasants to fulfil their quotas.

Nash Sovremennik said Stalinism was a "difficult period" to be explained in terms of the circumstances prevailing at the time, rather than taken out of context. *Berry Places* was a dishonest and immoral work, devoid of merit and should never have been published, the journal said.

Yevtushenko's reputation as a literary gadfly began in the 1960s when, as a young poet, he published *The Heirs of Stalin* in which he gave warning that the tyrant might rise from the grave.

Ten years ago he phoned Mr Yuri Andropov – then head of the KGB – to protest against the arrestof the author, Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Mr Andropov *told him to go home and sleep*.

Nash Sovremennik also made scathing remarks about Yevtushenko's acting ability.

The attack would appear to augur badly for Yevtushenko's latest venture, a two-part film about his childhood which depicts the evacuation from Moscow to Siberia in the Second World War.

Spain denies dirty war by police

From Richard Wigg Madrid

Spain is suffering from its past image Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, said here yesterday, speaking in defence of the police combating Basque terrorism.

Referring to renewed allegations of torture of police detainees and of "dirty war" methods in the light of Spanish police "missions" inside French territory. the Socialist Prime Minister described police conduct as "exemplary, even admitting the mistakes".

There were no longer any Basque "refugees" in France, he said, only "delinquents fleeing Spanish justice". The so-called revolutionary tax imposed by ETA the Basque seperatist organization should be known for what it was – a "gangster-like extortion."

More than 90 per cent of claims by those arrested that they had been tortured proved on investigation to be false, Señor González said.

Portuguese Christmas bonus cut

From Martha de la Cal Lisbon

The traditional bonus Portuguese workers receive at Christmas will be reduced by 28 per cent this year. Last month the Government imposed a 2.8 per cent retroactive tax on all earnings for 1982. This tax was deducted just before Christmas in a lump sum from salaries which include the "thirteenth month bonus".

The tax has drastically reduced Christmas spending. Toyshops in central Lisbon are virtually empty compared with former years. Shopkeepers who stocked up with merchandise for Christmas are complaining they may be forced out of business.

The tax is not the only woe the Portuguese face this Christmas. An estimated 150,000 workers have received no wages for several months, according to estimates by the Syndicate of Unions in Lisbon.

Hardest hit are the shipbuilding and ship repairing, textile, metalworking, glassmaking, fishing, ceramic and chemical industries and the merchant marine. This week workers at the giant Lisnade shipyard occupied the offices of the administration until they extracted a promise they would receive part of their back wages.

Some local authorities have voted emergency funds to distribute food to families of unpaid workers. Lisbon, where an estimated 30,000 workers are owed back salaries, is plastered with posters showing an unemployed worker and bearing the slogan: "What a Christmas".

Another poster shows a little boy saying: "My father works but is not paid".

An all night vigil was being held by thousands of workers last night. The vigil was sponsored by the Communist-backed General Confederation of Portuguese Workers

Christmas cheer: Former Wing Commander John Cox, freed with two other Zimbabwe Air Force officers, reunited with his family after 16 months in jail.

Harare plays down US aid cut

From Our Correspondent, Harare

Zimbabwe's relations with the United States have not been adversely affected by the Reagan Administration decision to cut its aid to the country, Mr Robert Mugabe, Prime Minister said here yesterday.

"We still regard the United States as a friend. We are not going to quarrel with a donor or benefactor who decides to withdraw aid from us. We were not entitled to that aid in the first place as a matter of right," Mr Mugabe said.

However, Zimbabwe felt let down because it had planned its land resettlement programme with American aid guarantees in mind. The aid reduction would force the Government to consider acquiring land for resettlement on a credit basis rather than the cash basis required at present by the country's British-inspired constitution.

"Very few countries have carried out resettlement programmes after decolonization in the same way as we have had to do requiring cash all the time. In Kenya, they have had to resort to land bonds. We might have to think about that."

State Department officials announced on Tuesday that aid to Zimbabwe in 1948 would be cut to about $40m (£27.5m), a reduction of $35m.

Mr Mugabe said he found "extremely objectionable" State Department suggestions that the aid reduction was linked to Zimbabwe's opposition to US foreign policy. He denied any intention of refusing remaining US aid.

"Why should we reject it? We are a beneficiary and whatever aid comes to us, provided it has no strings attached, we will accept," he said.

Later, Mr Mugabe told foreign correspondentsre that they need not comply with a law that bans reporting of security-related matters in almost half of the country.

The law, gazetted six weeks ago, restricts press reports on army and anti-government guerrilla actiity in the troubled Matabeleland and Midlands provinces to court trial testimony, parliamentary debate and official Government statements. Essentially a duplicate of a press censorship law once used by the white Rhodesian Government, it carries a penalty of one year's imprisonment or £660 fine.

Ministry of Information officials had passed word that the ban could be ignored to several foreign journalists, but the advice has been treated cautiously.

Cocos likely to join Australia

From Tony Duboudin Melbourne

The Cocos Islands are likely to become part of the Northern Territory for electoral purposes should the 600-odd mainly Malay inhabitants decide to join Australia.

The islanders are to have a United Nations-supervised plebescite of self-determination next year, possibly in March, to decide whether to integrate with Australia, enter into a free association with Australia or become independent.

Mr Tom Uren, the Minister for Territories, visited the islands earlier this month and a spokesman said that all the indications were that the islanders would opt for integration.

Mr Paul Everingham, the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, may go to the islands as part of a fact-finding mission after the suggestion on Wednesday by the federal Government that the islands be incorporated into the Northern Territory for federal electoral purposes.

A spokesman for Mr Uren said after the minister's visit that the Federal Government's duty at this stage was simply to inform the people and ensure that they had a good picture of what the choices were.

"The definite impression was gained during the visit that the islanders want intergration and they want the vote brought on quickly, possibly in March", the spokesman stated.

The Cocos Islands have been in the hands of the Clunies Ross family since the 1820s since Captain John Clunies Ross took over the islands

Tories ride high in Denmark

From Christopher Follett Copenhagen

The first opinion poll since a general election was called for January 10 in Denmark predicts a massive victory for the Conservative Party of Mr Poul Schlüter, the Prime Minister.

Conducted by the Vilstrup Institute for *Politiken*, the leading Copenhagen daily, and published yesterday. the poll shows support for the Conservatives has doubled from 14.5 per cent of the vote in the last election in December, 1981, to 29 per cent.

It would put the Conservatives on a par with the opposition Social Democrats, traditionally the biggest party. More significantly, the survey gives the four-party minority Conservative-Liberal coalition of Mr Schlüter a combined 47 per cent of the vote, ensuring its continuation after the election.

With the small, but pivotal, Radical Liberal Party, which supports the coalition, tipped to win 4 per cent of the vote, the prospect of the Government achieving majority parliamentary backing for its first Conservative leader since 1901, called elections last week after parliament rejected the coalition's key 1984 Finance Bill.

Since the Second World War, only two of 14 governments have managed to secure a majority. Thirteen parties are fighting the January election, the seventh in 13 years.

Eulogies for Schmidt as Brandt stays away

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Statesmen, politicians, artists and musicians have paid tribute to former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who was celebrating his sixty-fifth birthday in his native Hamburg after being honoured with the freedom of the city.

M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former French President, Dr Henry Kissinger, the former American Secretary of State, Mr Dries van Agt, the former Dutch Prime Minister, and leading politicians from the Federal Republic and the Social Democratic Party – with the notable exception of Herr Willy Brandt – were among the many distinguished guests who took part in a special gathering on Thursday night in a theatre in Herr Schmidt's constituency.

Mr Giscard, a close friend of Herr Schmidt when the two men were in office, called him the best known German of today in Europe and the world, and Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, speaking for the Christian Democrats, who ousted Herr Schmidt from office, spoke of his outstanding achievements for Germany and Europe.

The former Chancellor, a keen collector of modern art and a noted musician – who has just accepted an invitation to play the piano at a concert given by Leonard Bernstein in Israel in May – told the many artists at the gathering that he did not think he had done enough for art when in office. President Karl Carstens, who drove to Herr Schmidt's house to offer personal congratulations, presented him yesterday with a collection of 100 records, the complete recorded works of Bach.

Herr Brandt, Herr Schmidt's predecessor as Chancellor, whose relationship with him has become increasingly frosty, was invited but did not attend. Herr Schmidt also failed to go to Herr Brandt's seventieth birthday party last week.

Hamburg voted to make the former Chancellor an honorary citizen – one of a handful thus honoured – but the motion was opposed by the Greens in the city Senat, who called Herr Schmidt a demagogue and representative of capitalism. The attack, in Herr Schmidt's presence on Thursday, added a sour note to an occasion which otherwise consisted of long speeches of praise.

Herr Schmidt has said he does not intend to stand for election at the end of the present parliament. He has become co-editor of the weekly *Die Zeit*. In this week's edition, he called in a leading article for his countrymen not to show so much angst over the deployment of new missiles.

Herr Shmidt also said in a radio interview yesterday that the deployment in Western Europe was a defeat for the Soviet leadership, but the West had to try to make it possible for the Russians to return to the negotiating table – which he thought likely in the end.

هكذا من الأصل

THE ARTS

Television

The price of tin

Coketown, first discovered by Dickens, has spread since like a disease. *Global Report* (BBC2) examined a typically malignant growth 15,000 feet up in the Bolivian Andes where the human victims creep thoughtfully about in the bright, lunar light.

Everything in Siglo Veinte revolves round the mine, whence the adult males extract tin for a fixed wage of £20 a month. "We don't expect to live long," said one. "Our life is finished in five years. There is no other work for us – there is nothing but the mine." The adult females spend a lot of time queueing at the company shop, where many are in chronic debt. The young wait to move up into the placed vacated by their parents.

The Tin Trap was based on a simple, even obvious idea: it followed one miner on his daily round, then accompanied him along the route taken by his produce to London. Higon Cussi Guzman, 33, smiling handsome, already once hospitalized for a year by a near-fatal accident, was seen lighting the touch-paper and standing (fairly) well clear: no wonder the devil, a blood-red, trident-toting figure towering over him in the tunnel, gets so many prayers.

Tender farewells, then off to La Paz. First stop, surprise surprise, a roadblock by miners, and an address by a government official on the consequences of a drop in world prices. From La Paz to London, and to the Metal Exchange, where Higon was both amazed and amused.

Here young people earned their living as though by a party game, shouting and waving their fingers in the air. Higon wondered innocently whether more mature dealers might not take account of the human captial involved. A more mature dealer put him right. "It's aggressive, it's a young man's business. Human capital doesn't come into the calculation."

Then Higon went down a mine, surfacing full of wonder at the streamlined safety, and remarking enviously that in Britain "you can work a long time before you get silicosis". On the way back to Siglo Veinte he said he had learned how his mine could be improved. What had we learned? Something about the meaning of inflation.

Pride of Our Alley (ATV), Alan Plater's dramatization of the life of Gracie Fields, was cast in the form of a radio interview with the singer in middle age, with flashbacks to her gutsy, determined beginnings. Polly Hemingway was – really *was* – our Gracie, from first to last: a remarkable performance which evoked the sort of affectionate loyalty her real-life model evoked from millions of admirers. The music-hall scenes, filmed in sepia, looked grittily authentic; the smutty jokes rang wryly true; the voice modulated from an aggressive shout to lightness and purity.

Michael Church

Theatre

A success – for all ages

Peter Pan
Barbican



Katy Behean and Mark Rylance in *Peter Pan*

First seen last Christmas, the RSC's *Peter Pan* is a brave – at the time, some thought it crazy – attempt to bury tired and tatty revivals for good and all, reclaim Barrie's fairy play and recreate its magic with all the aid of the company's bank of talent and the resources of the Barbican stage.

It succeeds spectacularly; that is the word. With a few additions to the text showing awareness of the flesh-and-blood friends that unwittingly roused the play from Barrie's creative mind, it becomes a production to satisfy adults and children equally but simultaneously for very different reasons.

From the lovingly detailed domesticity of a cream-painted Edwardian nursery, John Napier's sets take a confident leap into Neverland: a vast, tree-planted mound sewn with velvety moss in myriad colours, an ocean of swirling blue silk, a stoutly seventeenth-century pirate deck with skulls prominent among its carvings. With this stage's unrestricted height, the flying effects are breathtaking. Mark Rylance, taking over Peter fresh from playing Ariel in *The Tempest*, launches into air "like a creature native and inbued unto that element" that flits about the precipitous terrain as though he really bore a charmed life.

As was noticed last year, it is good to see a really boyish sprite. With his delicate appearance, Mr Rylance can afford to be pretty gruff and arrogant in compensation. He also has a strange quality of unreachableness: it made him a very poignant Ariel and it dooms the efforts of Katy Behean's passionately mothering Wendy from the start.

Stephen Moore doubles as the mundane paterfamilias (partnered by Frances Tomelty, who truly does have a sweet indefinable smile) and a sardonically courtly Captain Hook, venomously addressing his rhapsody about the children "in their homes abed" to us out front, up long past our bedtimes. Stephen Oliver's score gives him a little minuet with Scottish dotted rhythms; but the most haunting piece, used for Mrs Darling's lullaby and Wendy's dream of her house, and repeated in in infinitely varied orchestration, is a melody he originally intended for the fairies' song at the end of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Quitely overseeing the whole is Edward Petherbridge's narrator, his accent naturally north of the border, with Barrie's stage directions as well as passages from the *Peter Pan* novel. Drily glaring at Hook's crocodile as its innards sound the Westminster chimes, he can be immensely funny but his conjuring-up of a parade of Peter's "lost boys" in adult careers from judge to titled swell has its full significance. And John Caird's production, while marvellously busy on occasion, also justifies its unfamiliar text with the moving final sequences in which Peter's anguished unfulfilment becomes disturbingly explicit.

Anthony Masters

Moby Dick
Royal Exchange
Manchester

I did not care for the vindictiveness with which the Royal Exchange announced Patrick McGoohan's withdrawal from this show: but it is true that had he taken part in it, Michael Elliott's production would have stood as a perfect heroic counterpart to the legendary *Brand* which first brought Elliott and McGoohan together in the 1950s.

As it is, Melville's Whaler is under the command of Brian Cox, who brings everythings to the role of Captain Ahab apart from the sheer sense of magnitude. Making one of the most long-delayed entrances on record, he is suddenly there – a supernaturally still presence, his dark coat and hat in stark contrast with the crew's costume, apart from the whalebone leg that drives him on his voyage of revenge. Almost led off course by his affection for the mad Pip, and finally sighting his prey with the cry of an ecstatic lover, he brings out all the humanity that still lingers in the crazy old man. What is missing is the demonic side: when he roars his defiance into the storm and reforges his harpoon in a scene closer to Greek myth than 19th-century whaling, drama subsides into the spectacle of a bulky actor shouting at the top of his voice.

Mr Cox does have the authority to carry out the main task of converting a ship's company into a pack of warriors, thus setting up the internal divisions that separate him from Starbuck, Ishmael and the others who resist the transformation of a trading voyage into a metaphysical quest. And the production has the strength of casting to make all these separate relationships count. One of the best scenes in Mr Elliott's adaptation is the lingering encoünter between Ahab and John Cording's Starbuck, where the old man, having threatened to kill the insubordinate mate, relents and allows him to patch-up the leaking oil barrels.

A great virtue of adaptation is that despite being extremely compressed, it always has time to dwell on key episodes and allow breathing intervals for work shanties and even sunbathing amidst the otherwise unrelenting battle with the elements.

The Royal Exchange, as its regulars will agree, might have been designed with *Moby Dick* in mind. Even before the production begins the outer perimeter resounds with the sound of whale music: this then gives way to the suck of the tides and wind, melodiously melancholy choruses of seals which the crew take for cries of the drowned, and finally the apocalyptic detonation as Moby Dick takes the ship down to the bottom.

The acting area, rigged to the flies, evokes the Pequod with heavy timber pieces including a huge mast and sail; but the triumph of Laurie Dennett's design comes at the end where the floor covering inflates into the heave and swell of the sea that swallows up Ahab and his men.

There are fine individual performances, particularly from Terence Weilton, who creates a figure of great dignity and warmth from the cannibla queequeg. But the heart of the show is in its seagoing pantomime (movement by Litz Pisk and Sue Lefton): not only on board, but in the hunting forays by open boat with crew members seated on the empty floor rowing towards an invisible prey and chilling your blood through the sheer power of movement.

Irving Wardle

Concert

Bubbling along cheerfully

English Concert/Pinnock
Queen Elizabeth Hall

This bubbling, cheerfully played programme of "Concerts for Christmas" made me think again about the current vogue for baroque orchestras and the sound of period instruments. It would be difficult to think of two more different textures, interpretative approaches and resultant sounds than that of the airy, quicksilver, enjoyable but somehow superficial Handel Concerto Grosso movement, which Trevor Pinnock's band played as their encore, and the performance of the same movement on Nikolaus Harnoncourt's recent recording of Handel's Op 6. Yet both claim to use period instruments and "authentic" playing styles.

This may mean that we are simply entering a newly mature era when old-instrument performances can be as diverse as those on new instruments. Certainly the sophisticated playing of Pinnock's orchestra supported Dr Christopher Field's letter to *The Times* this week in which he demonstrated how seventeenth and eighteenth century writers spoke of the violin as an eloquent, sweet, tender, powerful, agile instrument.

All those qualities could be heard in Simon Standage's solo playing, particularly in his supremely eloquent slow movements and Telemann's B flat Concerto to Vivaldi's "Winter" from *The Four Seasons*. But was his playing attractive because it sounded reasonably like something to which we are accustomed?

That is the problem which Noël Goodwin's original reference to "the whining strings of baroque scholarship" – disliked by Dr Field – quite pertinently addresses; these instruments should surely sound different. We have to put up with various little fluffs and squeaks even from an ensemble as far advanced as Pinnock's: the benefit must be that they demonstrate a notion of expressivity, of rhetorical discourse which is unusual. When seventeenth-century theorists wrote of sweetness, they may wil have had something in mind closer to Mr Goodwin's whining than to Isaac Stern.

No one could confuse the sound of the modern oboe with that of its baroque equivalent. David Reichenberg, in a most beautiful account of the slow movement of Albinoni's Op 9 No 2 Concerto, showed how a timbre shorn of its rich harmonics can be just as affecting as a richly coloured sound.

He had a disturbing tendency to land slightly below the note, but his phrasing was sharp and his sense of rhythm taut. So too was Trevor Pinnock's in his own solo, Handel's concerto for organ in B flat Op 4 No 2.

Nicholas Kenyon

Radio

Rock horror

One characteristic of some of the more militant Radio 4 listeners is a very clear notion of what the network ought and ought not to do. No doubt a number of correspondents are even now dipping their pens in caustic to ask what *their* network thought it was doing putting out not just a musical, but a rock musical as the Christmas week Monday Play. Surely, they will argue, such stuff belongs on Radio 1.

How I would like to be able to assure them that in Nick and Tony Bicat's Class (December 19; director, Michael Heffernan) their shrunken criteria had led them to dismiss a musico-dramatic pearl. Unfortunately, and while I shall continue to uphold the enterprise of Radio 4 in making the attempt, the experience of actually listening to this confection from start to finish has left me with hardly a word to say in its defence.

Described as "a rock cartoon" (cartoon implying, surely, brevity, wit, penetration, resonance) Class maundered on for an hour and three quarters telling us in empty dialogue, witless lyrics and for the most part deeply unmemorable music of a disenchanted property tycoon who decides to drop out and of his son who complements Dad's decline by a rocketing rise in the music management business.

With that message of seasonal goodwill delivered, let me trun to jollier things – such as **Radio Active's Christmas Turkey** (Radio 4, Dec 20; producer Jamie Rix) which at the top of its form nicely enshrined certain recognizable aspects of the spirit of Christmas as it is, in contradistinction to what it is supposed to be. Having recently spent some dire moments listening to groups of small boys singing "Hark, the herald angels" – apparently to as many tunes as boys – I was especially impressed with the station's promotion of the carol-alarm. Convincingly mimics large dog, lion, snake and Rabbi: "Boy, did you get the wrong house!"

The approach of the season of gluttony may have given **Red Beans and Rice in Paradise** (Radio 3, Dec 20; producer, David Perry) a certain added edge, although truly Russell Davies's programme, needed no help of any sort. Here he took us on a conducted tour of New Orleans and its hinterland with particular reference to Creole and Cajun cookery. Jazz lyrics marvellously pointed up the subject matter.

One of the week's most curious and absorbing programmes turned up in the Radio 4 late Saturday evening slot. **In Living Memory** (Dec 17; producer, Barbara Crowther), June Knox-Mawer spoke to three people, a child of seven, a man of 40 and a woman of 81, each of whom possesses a clear, detailed picture of what appears to be a previous existence. She also questioned Professor Ian Stevenson, an American psychologist who specializes in this sort of mystery, and, most productively, Dr Rupert Sheldrake, a British biochemist who has already caused a bit of a stir with some of his ideas on evolution. Here he was proposing the possibility of a collective memory is able to make contact as if it were a radio receiver. Certainly memory, both mechanism and physical location, is ill-understood. Conceivably there is yet more than that to be explained – a possibility for which Ma Knox-Mawer's most persuasive advocate was the child, Catherine. She was not only articulate way beyond her years, but possessed of perceptions equally precocious and many of them not too easy to account for.

David Wade

Interview

A new sense of freedom

"One loves the idea of sheer physical beauty, of something that has not been experienced before, but without knowing if one can do it", said Gillian Ayres, down from North Wales for her Arts Council retrospective exhibition at the Serpentine Gallery in Hyde Park (until January 8).

She is a shortish, plumpish woman of 53 years, and has about her a refreshing simplicity, almost an innocence, which enables her to admit to so unfashionable and subjective a goal as beauty. The sort of painters she admires are those, such as Titian, Veronese, Rubens, Delacroix, Courbet and Monet, whose brushwork makes even a small segment of their canvases a thing of beauty. She loves the medium of oil paint: the pigment, even the smell.

Abstract painting, which is what she has always done, began to excite her soon after she went from St Paul's to Camberwell Art School. Despite a good deal of recognition at home and abroad in the 1960s, only recently has her work begun to sell. "I'm not used to it", she admits.

It has been a long struggle. She was brought up and spent most of her life in Barnes in west London. Her father ran a factory which made expensive hats for men. Her mother came from Somerset farming stock. After some pleasant years at the Froebel School at Roehampton, where she looked after the goat, made pots and excelled at art and maths, she found St Paul's utterly conventional. "I was taught by Pasmore's sister, who was rather uninspring – you just drew daffodils, that sort of thing. But it was very good for music, and I got something out of books on people like Monet and van Gogh."

Long determined to paint, she left and became one of three 15-year-olds at Camberwell School of Art. "It was rather bewildering in human terms, as it was full of ex-service people talking about the desert and Burma." The teachers, predominantly of the Euston Road persuasion (low-key colours, emphasis on drawing), did not encourage her proclivity to abstraction, so she left after four years without taking any exams, and headed for Cornwell.

"I had a dreamy idea you could char and paint, but in fact you don't have the energy to paint if your've been working what was probably a 14-hour day, six days a week." Being a chambermaid was terrible – I was always getting caught to iron dirty sheets". Returning to London after a few months, she ended up working three days a week at the AIA (Artists' International Association) Gallery in Lisle Street, of Shaftesbury Avenue. The painter Henry Mundy, whom she later married and eventually divorced, did the other three days. It became a meeting place for painters, writers and Soho Bohemia.



Gillian Ayres: the abstract excites

One visitor was Michael Greenwood, an architect doing some modernization at South Hampstead (girls) School, and he commissioned her to paint four hugh panels for the school dining room. The workers though she was going mad as, Jackson Pollock-like, she swirled the paint on in a tremendous release of creative energy. The result caused some consternation, but the panels helped shape the psyches of the girls for 13 years, then disappeared, presumed destroyed. Happily, as a result of research Tor this show, they were found undamaged beneath a layer of wallpaper.

In 1959, two years later, she began what became 22 years of part-time teaching: first under the remarkable Clifford Ellish at Bath Academy Heath; then at St Martin's in London, where Anthony Caro and others were then siring a new generation of sculptors in welded steel; and finally as head of painting at Winchester School of Art.

Since most British painters cannot make a living without teaching, she reckons our art students get good value for money. "Now the authorities are trying to make art schools systematic, and they are destroying them, she said" Gillian Ayres believes that she too, benefited from teaching. "In the long run one gets a lot our of it. Besides all the people you mix with, you also get something out of the best third of students – and you can talk seriously about art".

At Winchester she became seriously ill and in 1981 resigned. She had often stayed with her sister in Wales in the 1950s, and decided to settle ther with her two sons. "I have liked the west of Britain, mountain landscapes, all my life. At one level I had always had a funny, almost private thing about getting out and being able to think on my own."

She found an old rectory in the Llyn Penisula near Snowdonia and there, amid her chickens, vegetables and apple trees and surrounded by Welsh-speakers from whom she has had nothing but kindness, she has created her often huge new works with a new sense of freedom.

Roger Berthoud

Since 1970 Datsun have sold more cars than any importer this century.

Why?

LAUREL. There are 2 saloons in the range, a 2 litre version at £6990 and a 2.4 litre version at £7990.



Datsun UK began importing Datsun cars into Britain in 1970. And now we've sold a million cars – 900,000 of them in the last ten years.

Renault have been here since 1905. Fiat since 1924.

And Volkswagen since 1953, and none of them can even start to match this record.

Datsun has been the best selling imported make of car in Britain for the last 10 years, with the Sunny and Cherry consistently being the most popular.

Why have so many people bought a Datsun?

OUTSTANDING QUALITY.

Independent consumer surveys for the last 8 years have shown Datsun to be the most reliable cars on the road.

But even more impressive are the unsolicited testimonials that have flooded in from satisfied Datsun owners.

Many people are so impressed with the uncanny reliability and low running costs of their Datsuns that they put pen to paper to tell us how thrilled they are.

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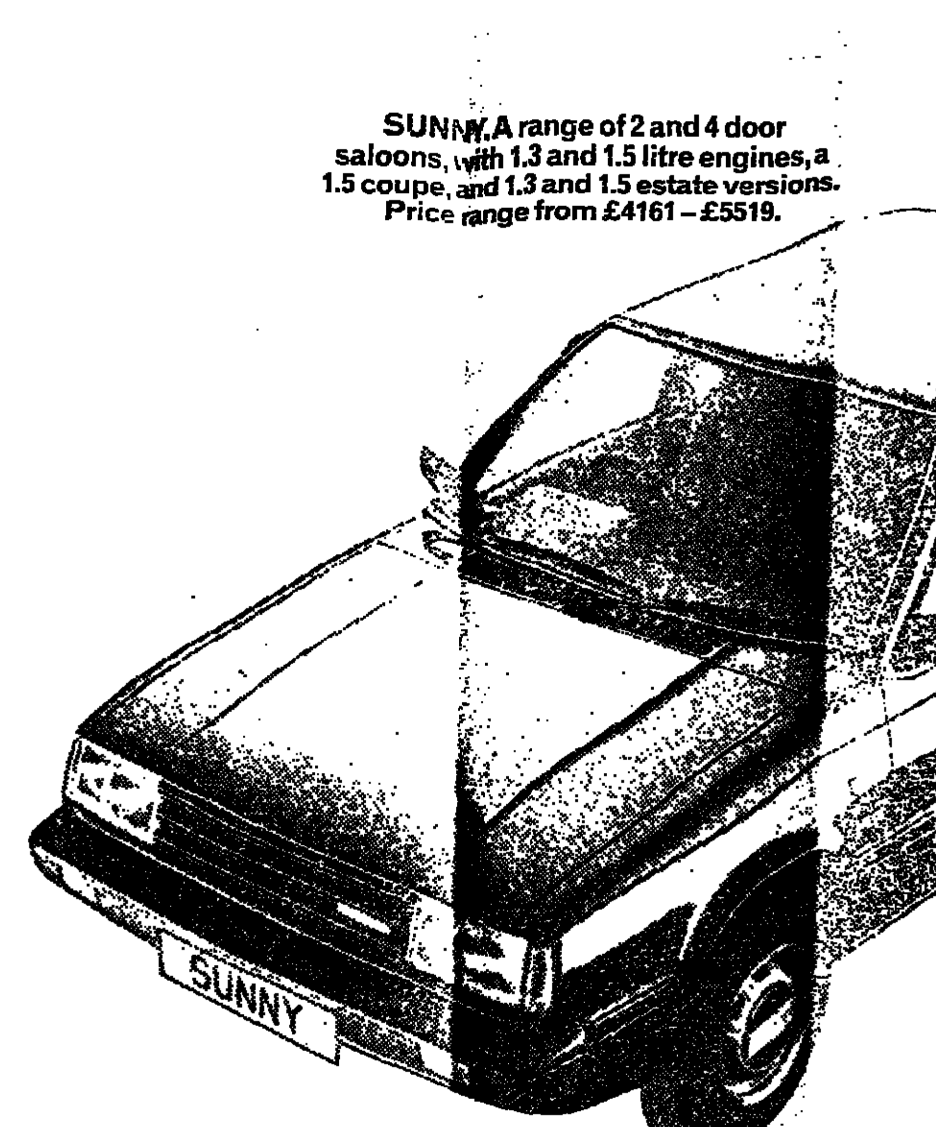


Stories of 100,000 miles without repair are commonplace.

There's even the case of the Datsun Sunny, used as a driving school car, which clocked up 300,493 miles and was still going strong.

If we were to relate all these remarkable letters to you, this paper would have precious little space for news.

SUNNY. A range of 2 and 4 door saloons, with 1.3 and 1.5 litre engines, a 1.5 coupe, and 1.3 and 1.5 estate versions. Price range from £4161 – £5519.



WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY.

The motoring press have been showering praise on Datsun's quality of construction for years.

In 1971 Motor magazine said "In performance and economy the Sunny is equal to anything in its class and in many aspects of comfort and equipment it stands virtually alone," and more recently they said "the Sunny is the most reliable car with the lowest number of days off the road."

"Datsun reliability is enviable, an added bonus for the Micra" said Autocar.

MICRA. Three 1 litre, 3 door versions; the DX at £3750, the GL at £4250, and the Auto 1.0 GL at £4560.

It must be more than mere coincidence that Datsun dependability is consistently described by motoring experts in such glowing terms.

The connection is no mystery to us.

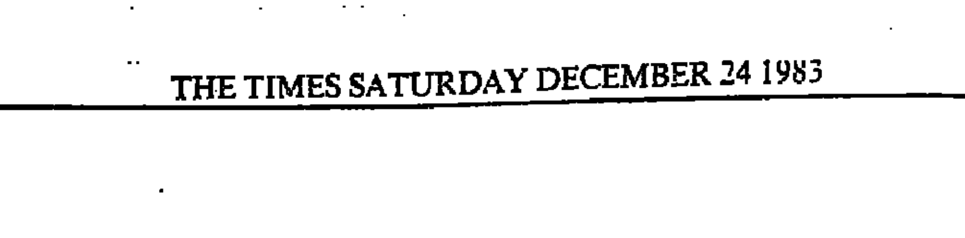
Nissan pay meticulous attention to detail in every aspect of design and production, and this has benefits that go far beyond reliability.

PATROL. A range of 4x4s. A hard top and estate with 2.8 litre engines, and diesel equivalents with 3.3 litre engines. Price range from £8515 – £10,368.



OUTSTANDING FUEL ECONOMY.

In March 1980 Drive said of the Nissan Cherry "Cheapest to run at 5.08p per mile, lowest fuel consumption at 2.73p per mile."



CHERRY TURBO. 1.5 litre engine. 0-60 mph in 8.0 secs (Motor). Price £6400.

On the issue of economy, owners and motoring writers are in unanimous agreement.

Datsun cars have always been economical to run, but with the launch of the Micra earlier this year we have the most economical car in Europe with an unbeatable 67 mpg at 56 mph.

In the words of Motor "Competitively priced and equipped and the most economical car on sale... best touring consumption ever."

The same magazine summed up the Nissan Sunny in the following words: "Excellent performance and economy in a roomy package–hard to beat."

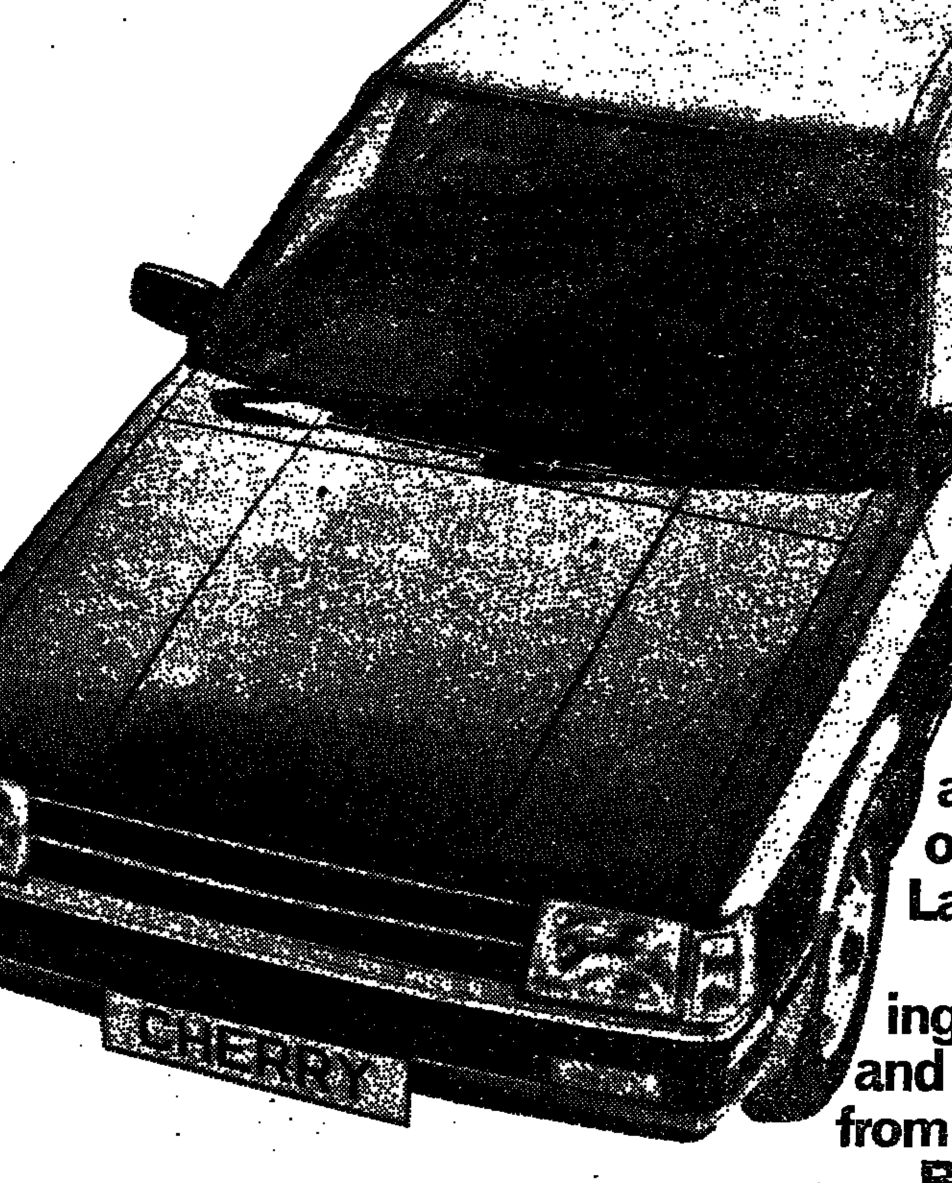
Even in the normally thirsty luxury class, Nissan cars attract repeated praise for fuel economy.

Of the Datsun Laurel, Autocar have said "On price, mid-range performance, level of equipment and overall fuel consumption the Laurel is hard to beat."

It should not be surprising that outstanding reliability and total economy should result from Nissan's quality.

But you want more from a car, and on creature comforts and level of equipment Nissan cars again attract an enormous and enthusiastic following.

CHERRY. A range of 3 and 5 door hatchbacks with 1.0, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.5 litre engines (including GTI version). Price range from £3851 – £5350.



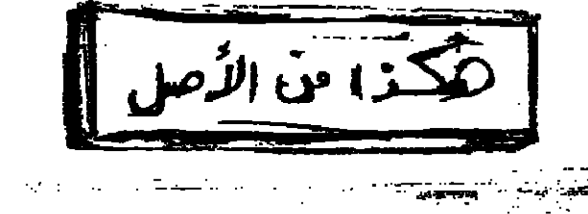
280ZX. A 2+2 Targa at £11,617.

LEVEL OF EQUIPMENT.

It's a well known fact that Datsun cars were the first to provide an extensive list of standard equipment included in the price of the car.

Other car makers are still trying to jump on the bandwagon.

But Datsun have continually improved what was already an exceedingly generous level of



equipment. Which results in our cars continuing as ever, to provide excellent value for money.

A sentiment echoed by Motor when speaking of the Datsun Bluebird.

They said "Outstandingly well-equipped and offers excellent value."

When the Financial Times turned its attention to the Nissan Stanza, they were equally enthusiastic: "Any European manufacturers who haven't got round to evaluating the Datsun Stanza should buy one straight away.

They will be doing themselves a favour because they will discover just how good a medium size family car can be."

BLUEBIRD. 1.8 litre saloon at £5991 and a 1.8 litre estate at £6395, automatic available.

A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE TO QUALITY.

Perhaps what separates Nissan cars from other marques more than anything else is the attitude of the people who design, build and test them.

Nissan engineers do not find it extraordinary to test a car, flat-out, continuously for 100,000 miles.

To them it is all perfectly normal.

They find nothing remarkable about *taking a car into the searing heat of the desert and simulating stop-start traffic jam conditions.*

To them, good enough just isn't good enough. It is that attitude of constantly seeking to find new ways of further improving the quality of Nissan cars that ultimately means more reliable, more economical, better-styled value for money cars for you.

The attitude is well expressed by a young line worker at a Nissan factory: "I don't want its owner to ever have a problem and think I failed to do my job."

Perhaps it's this commitment from the workforce that has led to such a strong commitment from Datsun owners.

PRAIRIE. 1 model with a 1.5 litre engine, at £6000.



STANZA. A range of 3, 4 and 5 door cars, with 1.6 and 1.8 litre engines, price range from £5819 – £6695.



Prices exclude delivery and number plates. Fuel economy figures – mpg (l/100 km). MICRA 1.0GL. Urban 47.9 (5.9), at 56 mph 67.3 (4.2), at 75 mph 46.3 (6.1). CHERRY 1.3GL 5 door, Urban 37.2 (7.6), at 56 mph 56.5 (5.0), at 75 mph 39.8 (7.1). SUNNY 1.3DX 4 door, Urban 37.2 (7.6), at 56 mph 57.7 (4.9); at 75 mph 41.5 (6.8). 280ZX, Urban 21.7 (13.0), at 56 mph 39.8 (7.1), at 75 mph 31.7 (8.9). BLUEBIRD 1.8GL. Urban 29.4 (9.6), at 56 mph 44.1 (6.4), at 75mph 33.6 (8.4). LAUREL 2.0GL, Urban 23.5 (12.0), at 56 mph 42.2 (6.7), at 75 mph 31.7 (8.9). STANZA 1.6GL 3 door, Urban 29.1 (9.7), at 56 mph 51.4 (5.5), at 75 mph 38.2 (7.4).

SPORTING DIARY

Twickers in a twist

I bear Christmas tidings that should have every Twickenham diehard spluttering into his preprandials: a group of determined ladies has just established a national association for women rugby union players. The women's game has existed, mostly at universities, for some years now, but the ladies are extending their range.

Tricia Moore, spokesperson for the organization, is not sure if it can get away with calling itself the Women's Rugby Union (the acronym might be confused with the Welsh). She says: "Our games tend to be more tactical than men's games, with a good deal less gratuitous violence. But it is still a very aggressive game; we play to exactly the same rules as the men. It is played in a good spirit though, about as ladylike as it could be, in the circumstances. We have been told we are about the same standard as a good 14-year-old schoolboy team."

Two's a crowd

Every week we hear more horror stories of Football League clubs agonizing about their dwindling attendances. They should worry: the recent titanic clash between the French third division club Olympique Lyonnais and A.J. Auxerre attracted an audience of exactly one. Gate receipts were 20 francs: I hope this unknown football supporter did not begrudge it overmuch. The result was 0-0.

Après le deluge

Ivory Coast footballers can feel justified in being a bit cross. In the final of the Exowas Trophy, Togo and Ivory Coast were locked together 1-1 at the end of normal time. Ivory Coast took the lead after three minutes of extra time, but with five minutes to go there was a cloudburst and the referee took the players off. When he tried to restart the match, the Togo players refused, saying the pitch was water-logged. The referee then awarded the match to Ivory Coast, but the competition's organizing committee overruled him, and decided on a "compromise" solution of a full replay.

BARRY FANTONI



'Yes, dear, it means Mummy will be home for Christmas'

Getting it taped

Ballesteros, McEnroe, Davis – relax: I have decided not to take up Videotherapy. This is a programme combining self-hypnosis and big names with clever advice which will make me better at just about everything in sport. There are also Videotherapy techniques for giving up smoking and losing weight, and even, apparently, "combating the stress of modern living." However, Seve, John Patrick and Steve can be assured that I would never take advantage of them like this.

Different tack

Horsy people are the bitter end, and I should know, because I am one. For it is not the sensible, helpful and unfindable-elsewhere information on London riding stables that attracted me first in the recently published *Good Ride Guide* but its occasional negative report in unminced words. Tales of unscheduled gallops through West End traffic, the horrors of Hampstead and one stable stocked with horses trained to rear and fall down for film work warm any horseperson's natural love of bitchery. One establishment is summed up laconically: "No hacking, no men – no thank you."

Rallying round

Two American table tennis players have set what could well be an unbreakable world record for the game's longest rally. Rick Bowling and Rich Dewitt are the goggle-eyed pair, and it was Rick who missed the first ball – after ten hours and nine minutes.

Geldings gilded

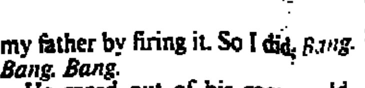
If you are looking for a Christmas present for Daniel Wildenstein or the Aga Khan, you could not do better than give them a copy of Robert Sangster's diary. This is the nattiest new publication in racing, and features the horseracing tycoon in all his panoply of splendour.

It is a kind of body-building performance, a choreographed display of all Sangster's equi-financial muscles popping and writhing. The little black book, with its metal corners and gilt-edged pages, tells you everything you ever wanted to know about Sangster, but were too cool to ask: his stallions, potential stallions, trainers, interests in Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the United States, Venezuela – Sangster gloriosus. This one will run and run (unlike Golden Fleece).

Simon Barnes

A seasonal story of Santa Claus in the Deep South

One Christmas



by Truman Capote



First, a brief autobiographical prologue. My mother, who was exceptionally intelligent, was the most beautiful girl in Alabama. Everyone said so, and it was true; and when she was 16 she married a 28-year-old businessman who came from a good New Orleans family. The marriage lasted a year. My mother was too young to be a mother or a wife; she was also too ambitious – she wanted to go to college and to have a career. So she left her husband; and as for what to do with me, she deposited me in the care of her large Alabama family.

Over the years, I seldom saw either of my parents. So far as I was concerned, this was not an unpleasant situation. I was happy where I was. I had many kindly relatives, aunts and uncles and cousins, particularly *one* cousin, an elderly, white-haired, slightly crippled woman named Sook. Miss Sook Faulk. I had other friends, but she was by far my best friend.

It was Sook who told me about Santa Claus, his flowing beard, his red suit, his jangling present-filled sled, and I believed her, just as I believed that everything was God's will, or the Lord's, as Sook always called Him. If I stubbed my toe, or fell off a horse, or caught a good-sized fish at the creek – well, good or bad, it was all the Lord's will. And that was what Sook said when she received the frightening news from New Orleans: my father wanted me to travel there to spend Christmas with *him*.

I cried. I didn't want to go. I'd never left this small, isolated Alabama town surrounded by *forests* and farms and rivers. Then, too, I was afraid of strangers, and my father was a stranger. I had seen him several times, but the memory was a haze: I had no idea what he was like. But, as Sook said: "It's the Lord's will. And who knows, Buddy, maybe you'll see snow."

Snow! Until I could read myself, Sook read me many stories, and it seemed a lot of snow was in almost all of them. Drifting, dazzling fairytale flakes. It was something I'd dreamed about; something magical and mysterious that I wanted to see and feel and touch. Of course I never had, and neither had Sook.

It was a 400-mile trip, something like that. My first stop was in Mobile. I changed buses there, and rode along forever and forever through swampy lands and along sea-coasts until we arrived in a loud city tinkling with trolley cars and packed with dangerous foreign-looking people.

That was New Orleans.

And suddenly, as I stepped off the bus, a man swept me in his arms, squeezed the breath out of me, he was laughing, he was crying – a tall, good-looking man, laughing and crying. He said: "Don't you know me? Don't you know your daddy?"

I was speechless. I didn't say a word until at last, while we were riding along in a taxi, I asked: "Where is it?"

"Our house? It's not far –"

"Not the house. The snow."

"What snow?"

"I thought there would be a lot of snow."

He looked at me strangely, but laughed. "There never has been any snow in New Orleans. Not that I heard of. But listen. Hear that thunder? It's sure going to rain!"

That night, when I went to bed, it was still raining. I said my prayers and prayed that I would soon be home with Sook. I didn't know how I could ever go to sleep without Sook to kiss me goodnight. The fact was, I couldn't go to sleep, so I began to wonder what Santa Claus would bring me. I wanted a pearl-handled knife. And a big set of jigsaw puzzles. A cowboy hat with matching lasso. And I wanted a box of crayons.

My father seemed to have everything – a car with a rumble seat, not to mention an old, pink pretty little house in the French Quarter. He also had a half-dozen, I'd say full-dozen, lady friends.

My poor father had no idea how miserable I was. He would say: "Tell the truth. Don't you want to come and live here with me in New Orleans?"

"I can't."

"What do you mean you can't?"

"I miss Sook. I miss Queenie: we have a little rat terrier, a funny little thing. But we love her."

He said: "Don't you love *me*?"

I said: "Yes." But the truth was, except for Sook and Queenie and a few cousins and a picture of my beautiful mother beside my bed, I had no real idea of what love meant.

I soon found out. The day before Christmas, as we were walking along Canal Street, I stopped dead still, *mesmerized by a magical object that* I saw in the window of a big toy store. It was a model airplane large enough to sit in and pedal like a bicycle. It was green and had a red propeller. I was convinced that if you pedalled fast enough it would take off and fly!

That night I prayed that Santa Claus would bring me the airplane. Of course, I had never seen a weighted, jangling, belly-swollen giant flop down a chimney and gaily dispense his largesse under a Christmas tree. My cousin Billy Bob, who was a mean little runt but had a brain like a fist made of iron, said it was a lot of hooey, there was no such creature.

"My foot!" he said. "Anybody would believe there was any Santa Claus would believe a mule was a horse." This quarrel took place in the tiny courthouse square. I said: *"There is a Santa Claus because what he does is the Lord's will and whatever is the Lord's will is the truth."* And Billy Bob, spitting on the ground, walked away.

My father's house had three floors and seven rooms. It was the kind of house best displayed by lacquered floors and some wicker here, some velvet there. It could have been mistaken for the house of a rich man; rather, it was the place of a man with an appetite for elegance. To a poor (but happy) barefoot boy from Alabama it was a mystery how he managed to satisfy that desire.

But it was no mystery to my mother. Many years later, she visited me in a snobbish New England boarding school when something I said tossed her into a rage; she shouted: "So you don't know how he lives so well? Charters yachts and cruises the Greek Islands? His *wives!* Think of the whole long string of them. All widows. All rich. *Very* rich. And all much older than he. Too old for any sane young man to marry. That's why you are his only child. And that's why I'll never have another child – I was too young to have any babies, but he was a beast, he wrecked me, he ruined me –"

All the while she talked (and I tried not to listen, because by telling me my birth had destroyed her, *she* was destroying me), tunes suddenly ran through my head. They helped me not to hear her, and they reminded me of the strange haunting party my father had given in New Orleans that Christmas Eve.

The patio was filled with candles, and so were the three rooms leading off it. After I had been introduced to the guests, and been made much of, I had been sent upstairs; but from the terrace outside my French-shuttered bedroom door, I could watch all the party, see all the couples dancing. I watched my father waltz a graceful lady around the pool that surrounded the mermaid fountain. She *was* graceful, and dressed in a wispy silver dress that shimmered in the candlelight; but she was old – at least 10 years older than my father, who was then 35.

Then I saw something that made me blink. My father and his agile partner had danced themselves into a niche shadowed by scarlet spider orchids; and they were embracing, kissing. I was so startled, I was so *irate*. I ran into my bedroom, jumped into bed and pulled the covers over my head. What would my nice looking young father want with an old woman like that! And why didn't all those people downstairs go home so Santa Claus could come?

Several things occurred that kept me awake the whole night. First, the footfalls, the noise of my father running up and down the stairs, breathing heavily. I had to see what he was up to. So I hid on the balcony among the bougainvillea. I saw him crawling around under the Christmas tree in the parlour arranging a pyramid of packages. I felt dizzy, for what I saw forced me to reconsider everything. If these were presents intended for me, then obviously they had not been ordered by the Lord and delivered by Santa Claus; no, they were gifts bought and wrapped by my father. Which meant that my rotten little cousin Billy Bob and other rotten kids like him weren't lying when they taunted me and told me there was no Santa Claus. The worst thought was: Has Sook known the truth, and lied to me? No, Sook would never lie to me. She *believed*.

I watched until my father had finished his chores and blown out *the few candles that still burned*. I waited until I was sure he was in bed and sound asleep. Then I crept downstairs to the parlour.

I sat there, thinking: Now I will have to be the one to tell Sook the truth. An anger, a weird malice was spiralling inside me: it was not directed towards my father, though he turned out to be its victim.

When the dawn came I decided to open the packages: It was Christmas morning, I was awake, so why not? I won't bother to describe what was inside them: just shirts and sweaters and dull stuff like that. The only thing I appreciated was a quite snazzy cap-pistol. Somehow I got the idea it would be fun to waken my father by firing it. So I did. *Bang. Bang. Bang.*

He raced out of his room, wild-eyed.

"Buddy – what the hell do you think you're doing?"

Bang. Bang. Bang.

"Stop that!"

I laughed. "Look, Daddy. Look at all the wonderful things Santa Claus brought me."

Calm now, he walked into the parlour and hugged me. "You like what Santa Claus brought you?"

I smiled at him. He smiled at me. There was a tender lingering moment, shattered when I said: "Yes. But what are *you* going to give me, Daddy?" His smile evaporated. His eyes narrowed suspiciously – you could see that he thought I was pulling some kind of stunt. But then he blushed, as though he was ashamed to be thinking what he was thinking. He patted my head, and coughed and said: "Well, I thought I'd wait and let you pick out something you wanted. Is there anything particular you want?"

I reminded him of the airplane we had seen in the toy store on Canal Street. His face sagged. Oh, yes, he remembered the airplane and how expensive it was. Nevertheless, the next day I was sitting in that airplane dreaming I was zooming toward heaven while my father wrote out a cheque for a happy salesman. There had been some argument about sending the plane to Alabama, but I was adamant – I insisted it should go with me on the bus that I was taking at two o'clock that afternoon.

But I wasn't free of New Orleans yet. The problem was a large silver flask of moonshine; maybe it was because of my departure, but anyway my father had been swilling it all day, and on the way to the bus station, he scared me by grabbing my wrist and harshly whispering: "I'm not going to let you go. I can't let you go back to that crazy family in that crazy old house. Just look at what they've done to you. A boy six, almost seven, talking about Santa Claus! It's all their fault, all those sour old spinsters with their Bibles and their knitting needles, those drunken uncles. *Listen* to me, Buddy. There is no God! There *is* no Santa Claus."

He was squeezing my wrist so hard that it ached. "Sometimes, oh, God, I think your mother and I, the both of us, we ought to kill ourselves to have let this happen . . . Kiss me. Please. Please. Kiss me. Tell your daddy that you love him." But I couldn't speak. I was terrified I was going to miss my bus. And I was *worried about my plane*, which was strapped to the top of the taxi. "Say it: 'I love you.' Say it. Please. Buddy. Say it."

Twelve hours later I was home in bed. The room was dark. Sook was sitting beside me, rocking in a rocking chair, a sound as soothing as ocean waves.

She stroked her fingers through my hair, and said: "Of course there is a Santa Claus. It's just that no single somebody could do all he has to do. So the Lord has spread the task among us all. That's why everybody is Santa Claus. I am. You are. Even your cousin Billy Bob. Now go to sleep. Count stars. Think of the quietest thing. Like snow."

Stars sparkled, snow whirled inside my head: the last thing I remembered was the peaceful voice of the Lord telling me something I must do. And the next day I did it. I went with Sook to the post office and bought a penny postcard. That same postcard exists today. It was found in my father's safety deposit box when he died last year. Here is what I had written: "Hello pop hope you are well I am and I am lurning to pedel my plain so fast I will soon be in the sky so keep your eyes open and yes I love you Buddy."

The author was born in New Orleans in 1924 and spent most of his childhood in the South. One Christmas is published by Hamish Hamilton (£6.95).



Noel Annan

Jobs for life but not too soon

Is academic tenure sacred? Should dons continue to be given a contract which guarantees employment for 40 years? Academic staff, except in Cambridge and one or two other institutions, get tenure after only three years' probation and are secure in their job until 65. Now Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, has advised the Privy Council not to allow any university to amend its statutes unless it adds redundancy along with ill-health, misconduct or scandalous behaviour as a "good cause" for dismissal.

No wonder. When the Government cut university costs, senior academic staff were asked to take early retirement. The compensation paid to those who did reflected the fact that, had they been dismissed, they could have sued for breach of contract. So the taxpayer had to provide £100m. The DES has warned universities to expect to lose more staff by the 1990s and Sir Keith faces another huge bill.

About half the universities guarantee tenure for everyone. The other half have break clauses in lecturers' contracts, but these clauses seem to be a dead letter. So far no don has been made redundant and the universities and colleges waiting to change their statutes are now refusing to insert the clause Sir Keith wants.

As always, the universities are ready to explain why change is impossible. First, they ask, why us? Why should civil servants or the staffs of museums and galleries have tenure and not dons? Next they argue that academic freedom is at stake. Tenure protects those with original minds which often seem subversive of received wisdom in their subjects. In fact there are numbers of safeguards, not least the vigilance of the Association of University Teachers (AUT).

There is another and stronger argument, though it would not *impress executives in industry* who have been made redundant through no fault of their own. It is this: An army officer is trained in a multitude of skills which enable him to apply successfully on retirement for another job. But a don who studies Egyptology or Topology disqualifies himself from alternative employment.

The universities urge the Government to face realities. When they heard a whisper that the Government was thinking of bringing in a one-line bill to abolish tenure they pointed out that this would apply only to new staff. The sitting tenants are secure. Parliament would hardly pass a bill depriving the members of a profession of their contractual rights under Common Law.

They judge that university councils and senates will never vote to make redundancy a cause for dismissal.

So, say some vice-chancellors, why not leave it to us? We will soon ensure that only 40 per cent of staff will have tenure and they will enjoy it for no longer than 25 years. But no move to do so has been observed. In the past 15 years the universities have resisted virtually all proposals for saving money voluntarily whatever party was in power.

The AUT could never get its members out on strike: academic staff know that if they did the Government would be unmoved and the public amused. But when the AUT advises its members to stand on their contractual right to tenure, it is as formidable as the NGA's opposition to the use of modern technology in newspaper production. Both unions are protecting the jobs of their members with this difference – the universities are not over-manned.

Someone who has spent 15 years establishing himself as a scholar of distinction should not be dismissed overnight. Tenure is reasonable and necessary for scholars. But not on the present terms. The present probationary period is a scandal. No one can judge in two and a half years whether a young scholar will mature into a good teacher who is likely to produce interesting research for many years or become renowned for learning. No American university grants tenure as frivolously as we do. No one should get tenure until he is at least 35. The retiring age should be fixed at 60, the university (not the scholar) having the right to reemploy at a lower salary for no longer than five years. Such conditions would make universities far more flexible and able to respond to new developments.

It would be reasonable for the Government to invite universities to amend their statutes on these lines and it should require them to do so not later than the end of next year. If they did not comply, the Government should introduce a bill making redundancy good cause for dismissal of any new member of academic staff at any age. If that happens, a safeguard which scholars need would be lost. But it would not be the first time that universities would have brought a bad policy upon themselves. The last time they did so was over the fees for overseas students.

Lord Annan was vice-chancellor of London University, 1978-81.

David Cohen

No stocking, just the usual dilemma

Good Jews don't have Christmas trees. When I was little, my mother's compromise was to have a small Christmas tree. She placed it well away from the windows that gave out on to the street so that if the rabbi passed he would not glimpse the offending tinsel.

My mother wanted a Christmas tree for two reasons. She did not like to advertise the fact that we were different and there was also the question of prudence. Ever since her youth in Romania, she had been worried by rumours that God might actually be a *goy* rather than a Jewish patriarch so she occasionally popped into the local Catholic church to light candles. That couldn't be too bad. After all, as good Jews we lit candles on Friday. Candles had to be ecumenical.

Christmas provokes all kinds of gentle unease among Jews, unease because you don't want to mark yourself out as being that different and unease because it requires toughness not to succumb to Christmas fever. As it happens, December sees the Jewish festival of Chanukkah, and even "bad" Jews like me bridle when friends say, without the least malice, that it's the "Jewish Christmas" – a theological concept to make the mind boggle.

In fact, Chanukkah celebrates the miracle of the oil when the Jews reentered the Temple. There was enough oil for only one day, but it lasted eight days. On each evening of the eight days of Chanukkah, one lights a new candle on the *menorah*, the eight-branched candelabrum. Some Jews give their children small presents every evening of the festival. Some orthodox Jews have now reverted to a tradition of giving "Chanukkah geldt", Yiddish for money. That way, there can be no confusion with Christmas presents.

For less orthodox Jews, the fact that Christmas itself has become less and less of a religious festival creates problems. Do you not give your children Christmas presents because it isn't a Jewish festival or do you fudge and give them presents that you don't call Christmas presents?

Many fudge, but some "Christian" traditions are much harder to adopt. While I found plenty of Jews who admitted, guiltily, that they really couldn't deprive their children of the presents all other children got, I didn't find any who put out Christmas stockings.

When I was little, my ecumenical mother managed to fudge things well. In Eastern Europe, they had also celebrated the feast of St Nicholas as an occasion for giving presents. That often falls in December too. So, in good years, I got Chanukkah presents, St Nicholas presents and Christmas presents and, if the dates fell right, it wasn't too clear precisely what festival the presents were for.

For really orthodox Jews, especially the Hassids with their long frock coats, there is none of this domestic unease and confusion. Christmas exists to be ignored. Or not quite. According to Jewish tradition, studying the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, adds to the radiance and life energy of the world. It is sublimely a good thing to do.

But there is a tradition that one does not study the Torah on Christmas Eve. The logic is obvious, if uncomfortable. The coming of Christ meant not just suffering and persecution for the Jews but being edged out from their position as the main monotheistic religion. On the day when Christians celebrate that, why should pious Jews add to the radiance and energy of the world? A friend once showed me a picture of two rabbis zealously playing chess on Christmas Eve in order not to study the Torah.

I have not studied the Torah since my barmitzvah but I understand that stealthy aggression towards Christmas. The only time I went to midnight mass I felt uneasy. I was going to get married to a Catholic who, before feminism made her faith impossible, took rituals seriously. She was going with her family to their local church in New Jersey. Not to go would have meant an explanation, standing out. I didn't expect to enjoy the service but I was curious and, then, quite taken aback when I found myself bristling at the carols I liked to hear muzakked in supermarket centres. Among the incense and crucifixes in the church, they made me feel surprisingly bad.

Even today, and even in tolerant countries like Britain, Jews feel under pressure not to mention such anxieties. I have no idea how many very pious Jews – if any at all – will refrain from studying the Torah. And, certainly, official Jewish bodies prefer to stress the fact that, on Christmas Day, Jews can do many things for Christians.

In many jobs, Jews volunteer to work Christmas Day; hospitals tend to be full of Jewish voluntary workers. In Manchester the organizer of the Hassidic Lubavitch Foundation, Mr Vogel, who cuts a Falstaffian figure and speaks Yiddish in a thick Manchester accent, told me that, after all, Christmas was "their festival" and it was the duty of a good Jew to be friendly and replace Christians at work so that they could celebrate their big day.

And Jews aren't unique. I have Indian friends who are bewildered by Christmas. An Irish psychiatrist explained to me how alien he felt the day of the royal wedding. That was a celebration for the British and he was outside it. So the ambivalence of Jews towards Christmas is, perhaps, not that different from the experience of other people at other times. Happy Yiddish Christmas!

Correction

In early editions yesterday the word "British" was printed in place of "Irish" in the following passage of Dr Garret FitzGerald's article: "A different and somewhat contrasting error which has encouraged the IRA in particular, and which has been particularly resented by Irish politicians, has been the series of direct and indirect contacts with the IRA and Sinn Fein on the part of past Secretaries of State."



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A CHILD FOR OUR TIMES

It was an unusual birth announcement, not the kind we are familiar with in the personal column of this newspaper, for instance. "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, and goodwill to all men." Indeed, the shepherds may have wondered what relevance it had at all to babies and the delivery thereof. But they did not know it was Christmas Day, when strange things always happen. It is the day when the world reverses its usual values, when strangers smile in the street, when prisoners receive little privileges at the taxpayers' expense, when there is universal care for any who are lonely, poor, or afraid, and when children are especially treasured.

It has become fashionable to taint our enjoyment of Christmas with a little cynicism, to regard the omnipresent benevolence of the Day as superficial sentimentality and the prior extravagance as rampant materialism, but that is bound to be how the spirit of Non-Christmas would mock the spirit of Christmas. Non-Christmas would reply to the angels: "How unrealistic!" There was no more goodwill in first century Palestine, no more peace, than in our own world; indeed the baby born that day had to be smuggled out of the country to save its life, before long. But the angelic message is our hope, our vision of a better and kinder life, and the instinct to recall it every year, to live one day as if it were true, is the token of how desperately we need that hope.

It is difficult to escape the conclusion that had the angels attached their message to any other event at all, we would long since have forgotten it. The genius of the Christmas story, however, is that it centred upon the birth of a child, an experience so universal, and so universally wonderful, that none is excluded from it. The new born baby is innocence itself, it commands no armies, levies no taxes, knows nothing of fame, wealth, or cleverness, crime, or virtue. At the crib-side all men and women are equal, all humbled by the recollection of their own origins. In an age a little jaded by the wranglings of the doctrinal schoolmen, which wants its religion to be more of the heart than of the head, a new born baby is the ideal religious symbol. It demands no difficult intellectual assent. It demands only that we be moved.

To deny the meaning of Christmas is to deny all that, rather than to deny the truth of some theological proposition of the traditional Christmas faith. Secularism, as we have come to experience it, is about philosophical scepticism when faced with the claims of religious dogma, and in that sense many a secular Christmas will be celebrated in Britain this year. But dogma apart, it is not secular at all; each in his own religious way experiences Christmas as the day the rules of the world are suspended, homages paid to other values, inarticulate hope is refreshed. Those who cannot enter into its spirit are to be pitied indeed, for they are confessing their total captivity to worldliness, and denying mankind's inherent spirituality. They may well mock, may well mutter "Humbug!" with Scrooge, but the lesson of that famous tale is that Christmas is not some ridiculous fantasy when society takes leave of its senses: it is how things ought to be, a taste of a different reality. The child's desire for "Christmas every day" is not absurd: it should be the goal of all human effort. The one sin is to give up on that effort, to abandon the world to its normal nastiness, as a hopeless mess.

There was more meaning even than that to the original Christmas. By the end of that first day, there was still no obvious connexion betweeen the infant in the stable and the proclamation by the angels. Merely by being born, Jesus did not achieve what they had promised. Merely by celebrating Christmas once more, we do not create a permanent state of peace and goodwill. Jesus's life was only beginning to reveal to mankind an option whose shape was not yet plain, just as Christmas annually keeps alive that option, but without fulfulling it. The story goes on from his birth: there was also a death, no less awesome, no less central to the meaning of the thing. For there to be Christmas every day, there has to be an Easter in every life, and the ultimate rejection of Christmas is to refuse to contemplate that price.

NO ONE TAKES THE RAP

Earls Court, London, Janauary 14, 1983; six o'clock in the evening. The scene is still vividly remembered. A yellow Mini is stationary in a rush-hour traffic jam. It is approached by a man in a blue anorak with a revolver in his hand. There are shots. Two other armed men join the fray. The driver, five bullets in his body and beaten about the head with a revolver to within an inch of his life, lies half in half out of the car. The men with guns are policemen. Their victim is the wrong man; no firearm in his possession or his car.

The policemen were exposed to danger in pursuit of a criminal who had escaped from custody. He had shot and wounded a policemen when previously arrested. The policemen were trailing a girl with whom the criminal was keeping company. One of her companions in the car was thought to bear a resemblance to the criminal. When the car was caught in the traffic one of the policemen from a following vehicle was sent forward to investigate.

That shooting in a crowded thoroughfare and the fearful and almost fatal mistake of identity deeply shocked the public. Had the criminality of modern urban society really come to this? Was it gun law in the guise of law enforcement?

Two of the three policemen who had used their weapons were charged with attempted murder and wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. Their defence to all charges was that of self-defence, the use of a degree of force that was necessary in the extremity if they were to protect their own lives. They were acquitted.

Though the acquittal was not to be questioned, there was lay concern at the judge's exposition of the law in the course of his summing up. His doctrine of the pre-emptive strike in self-defence appeared to confer an alarming licence on armed policemen to use their guns, not to mention the wider application of the doctrine beyond the police force (for in these matters the rights of the policeman are the rights of the citizen).

Cleared of criminal charges, the three detective constables who had fired at the driver of the Mini remained exposed to possible disciplinary charges. A disciplinary investigation was duly carried out by the Metropolitan Police and it was concluded that charges should not be preferred, either because of insufficient evidence or because the charges would be of a kind precluded by the Police Act.

The rule of double jeopardy, the rule that no one shall stand trial twice on the same charge, applies to the police disciplinary code when criminal charges have already been preferred. It is the rule, quite rightly, that a police officer who has been brought before the courts on a criminal charge should not, whether acquitted or convicted, thereafter be charged with a disciplinary offence which is in substance the same. The criminal trial had taken care of assault and the use of excessive force. Those issues, which were the main issues, could not be retried in the context of disciplinary proceedings.

The criminal trial had however brought to light several prima-facie breaches of police standing orders or instances of disobedience. In particular, the first detective constable to approach the Mini had been sent forward to make an identification of the suspected man, not to make an arrest. There was evidence that in drawing his gun when he did he was in contravention of police regulations. There was also evidence that he shot at – he certainly hit – the tyres of the car, also contrary to intructions; and evidence that he fail ed – though he may have tried – to give an audible warning shout, as required.

These were apparent breaches of discipline quite distinct from the burden of the earlier criminal charges. Yet the Police Complaints Board agreed with the two senior officers of the Metropolitan Police that they should not be made the subject of disciplinary charges. Their reasoning, especially in the case of the allegedly premature drawing of the revolver (that the matter had been gone into at the trial in relation to self-defence), is hard to accept. The breaches of the rules, if that is what they were, may in themselves have been minor, but they contributed to a ghastly misadventure. It is surprising that it has not been thought proper to make them the subject of a disciplinary hearing.

The upshot is that no one high or low takes the rap for a bungled operation of almost fatal consequence which gave the public of London cause for alarm that the Chicago of their imagination had been brought to the streets of their city. No individual responsibility has been fixed, except what is implied by the permanent removal of those three detective constables from the roll of police officers authorized to carry guns.

It is more important that the right lessons should be learned from an incident of this kind than that the right people should be blamed. And the Metropolitan Police and Home Office are evidently seeking to profit from those lessons, especially as they affect selection and training of for eligibility to carry firearms. But it is not unimportant either that responsibility is fixed and borne when human endeavour goes so badly wrong.

Orthopaedic needs

From Dr D. J. Stoker and others

Sir, The recent decision of the Bloomsbury Health Authority not to renew the lease of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital building in Great Portland Street symbolizes the culmination of years of neglect by the DHSS, which has managed to escape its obligation to provide the services needed by a national orthopaedic centre.

We have accepted the need for an orderly transfer of in-patient services to the Middlesex Hospital in 1987. This plan allows for 50 orthopaedic beds with two operating theatres on the same floor, thereby preserving a recognizable identity for the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital within that hospital.

Bloomsbury HA has, against medical advice, decided to transfer only 44 orthopaedic beds to the Middlesex Hospital in 1984; such beds are located on two floors and the plan will prevent their organization as a coherent unit.

The in-patient facilities which cannot be accommodated at the Middlesex Hospital are supposed to be transferred to the larger branch of the RNOH at Stanmore. There, the already inadequate provision of operating theatres will not be solved by the installation of one extra modular theatre.

The RNOH has a national and international reputation in an expanding specialty. It trains more orthopaedic surgeons than any other centre in the United Kingdom. Until now it has been in the van in advances in treatment, particularly in crippling disorders of childhood, biomedical engineering leading to joint replacement in the elderly and infirm, and limb-saving surgery in the treatment of bone tumours.

In the interest of patients the Great Portland Street site should continue to be occupied by our hospital until the permanent move can take place in 1987. The DHSS has undertaken to finance the final transfer; we believe that payment of the extension of the lease constitutes a part of such a transfer.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. STOKER (Chairman), Medical Staff Committee, Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital,
H. B. S. KEMP (Deputy Chairman),
E. J. TRICKEY (Dean),
Institute of Orthopaedics,
234 Great Portland Street, W1.
December 20.

Too lenient?

From Mr Inigo Bing

Sir, In the wake of criticism about sentencing the Prime Minister has promised legislation to permit sentences alleged to be too lenient to be referred to the Court of Appeal. Referred by whom?

It ought not to be the prosecution, whose only function is to present the facts on behalf of the Crown, not to argue for a particular sentence. Nor, logically, should it be the Attorney General. While the Attorney may at present refer certain cases for a determination of criminal law, the sentence depends essentially on the facts and circumstances of each individual case. On what basis would one sentence be too lenient when another was not?

Moreover if a sentence is perceived to be too lenient this can only be because other sentences for the same crime were more severe. If the more severe sentences are in fact imposed (in the absence of special factors) it is difficult to see what role the Court of Appeal might have for theoretical referrals.

It is the experience of those in practice that the best person to decide the right sentence is the trial judge who hears all the facts and the mitigating circumstances advanced by the accused. As these are never precisely the same sentences obviously and rightly vary from case to case.

At present the judge's decision is only overturned if he has erred in principle or his sentence is so manifestly excessive that in either instance the accused has suffered an injustice.

These sound principles should not be upset by those with a passing, and often prurient, interest in the administration of justice. For these reasons the sooner the Government abandons its proposed legislation the better.

Yours sincerely,
INIGO BING,
7 Pump Court,
Temple, EC4.
December 21.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Political priority for Ireland

From Lord Hylton

Sir, The duration of politically inspired violence in Ireland, which spills over into Britain, makes it clear that there is no purely security or military solution for the underlying problems. As recent correspondents (November 14, December 20, etc) have pointed out, we need a political strategy as well as effective security. We must seek more than just the good working relationships between the London and Dublin governments mentioned in the Tory Manifesto of May, 1983.

We should strive towards agreement between the two governments on medium-term aims. Now is the time, since both governments enjoy good majorities and every chance of remaining in office. In addition there is not only good will but also funds available through the EEC, in the wake of Mr N. J. Haagerup's helpful report to the European Parliament. An agreement between London and Dublin, supported by the EEC, would, I suggest, be able to call on practical backing from the USA.

I hope British people everywhere will recognize that the Irish question was not solved in 1920 or 1922. It has remained outstanding to this day, imposing heavy burdens on Britain and disproportionately greater ones on the Irish Republic. That is why agreement between the two legitimate authorities is so important.

To achieve agreement will require some willingness to sacrifice traditional political tenets and much higher political priority in Britain. Both are essential, for the problems will not go away.

Yours faithfully,
HYLTON,
House of Lords.
December 21.

Understanding attitude to charity

From the Director of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Sir, Your leading article, "Charitable giving and taking" (December 17), reveals a certain lack of understanding of the work of many voluntary organisations and their relationships with local authorities and central government.

Yes, the voluntary sector has grown considerably. It encompasses not only many invaluable volunteers, whom you describe in a somewhat patronising manner, but also an increasing number of large and small voluntary organisations many of whom have paid staff.

Yes, government financing of voluntary organizations has grown, but that pattern began several years before the present Government took office.

The most significant increases are as a result of particular programmes where government has sought and paid for the services of voluntary organisations; for example the programme of investment in housing associations that followed the 1974 Housing Act, the Manpower Services Commission's programmes to provide training and relieve unemployment and the urban programme expanded after the inner-city riots of 1981.

Ministers typically take an active interest in these and other activities of voluntary organisations, and voluntary bodies are under obligations, which they fulfil, to account to departments and other arms of government from which they receive funds.

Your reference to the creation of "a stage army of fully unionised and militant 'volunteers' catering to the fashionable whims of sex and race" is, I suppose, a reference to a small minority of the projects funded by the Greater London Council. It will be resented by many voluntary organisations, especially those that have responded positively to involve black and other ethnic minorities in inner city areas as a part of the urban programme.

The growth of local and central government funding for voluntary organisations has encouraged voluntary effort where it was previously lacking and hence removed the element of chance.

This is not to suggest that the voluntary sector should, or could, substitute for the statutory services. In this country we have taken strides towards a pluralist welfare society that is learning to make the most of a working partnership between paid and unpaid workers, between public and private money and between voluntary organisations and statutory agencies.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HINTON, Director,
National Council for Voluntary Organisations,
26 Bedford Square, WC1.
December 19.

Accountability in the here and now

From the Bishop of Lincoln

Sir, Ronald Butt (feature, December 22) quotes Bede's tale of the sparrow flying out of the dark into the lighted hall and out again into the night. Man's life, says the tale, is like that brief moment. The tale, writes Butt, "is a reminder that Christianity has always been principally about first and last things ... To-day, however, it is the things between, here and now, that are dominant in the teaching of Christian priests and ministers."

He forgets another tale, from St John, "Jesus ... knowing that he was come from God, and went to God ... took a towel ... and began to wash the disciples' feet ... after ... he said unto them ... I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you."

If Christian ministers are concerned about the "here and now" it is because they have a good example. And Jesus's example was exactly because he came from God and went to God. Our origins and our destiny in God inevitably imply a certain way of living, in between "here and now" – Jesus's way.

You cannot divide time and eternity, as Ronald Butt seems to require. Jesus showed us not only what God is like, but also, in practical terms of loving service and social concern, what man can be like, because he is God's child.

It is not intellectually honest, and thereby not morally honest, for a late twentieth-century person to suggest that eternity is a Somewhere Else inhabited by a Someone Else, to which and to whom it is a Christian minister's task to direct the common gaze, at the expense of the common ground of daily life.

We have to seek for eternity within the "here and now", i.e., discern and perceive the deeper moral and spiritual significance of temporal and secular concerns and live for that. "... to apprehend the point of intersection of the timeless with time, is an occupation for the saint." What, after all, was the Cross about?

The current right-wing establishment finds this idea hard to bear. It raises such critical moral questions about some of its policies. "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's".

That is not a separation of Church and state. It is a combination of Church and state. The "and" means what it says. We have to take both seriously and together because Here and Now we are accountable.

Yours sincerely
SIMON LINCOLN:,
Bishop's House,
Eastgate,
Lincoln.
December 23.

Test of closed shop

From Mr John Coleman

Sir, I have an inbuilt dislike of the closed shop anywhere and law-changing, rather than law-breaking, seems to me to be the essentially British way of doing things.

Notwithstanding that, I think we have to remember that democracy is based on majority decision-making and not on the absolute sacredness of individual freedom. We all accept a tension between the desires of the individual and the needs of society. It seems to me that the closed shop situation should be allowed where the great majority of the workers in a firm genuinely desire it, and not allowed where there is not a strong or even overwhelming majority for it.

I think we pay due regard to individual freedom by not going against it until the majority is very strong.

I believe that if we are to avoid a lot of trouble arising from the Government's recent legislation in this field it is very important to define the circumstances in which the closed shop question can arise.

What I would not like to see is pressure from outside a firm being used to pressurise a majority into favouring a closed shop. But allowing it when there is a strong majority desire for it within the firm is probably the essentially British kind of compromise.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN COLEMAN,
The Nook,
Hook Village,
Warsash,
Nr Southampton,
Hampshire.
December 15.

Stronger role for BA

From the Chairman of British Airways

Sir, In his article of December 14, Kenneth Fleet reflected upon two important issues concerning British Airways – the "dominance of international routes and the shape of the balance sheet".

The fact is that British Airways' share of total international scheduled take-offs and landings at Heathrow is about 37 per cent and of total international passengers at Heathrow about 41 per cent: a significant presence, but I think you will agree, hardly a dominating position.

As to the shape of the balance sheet, it should be understood that the £924m of borrowings have been loaned to us by commercial banks and are only guaranteed by the Government. They are not in any way loans from the Government using taxpayers' money. British Airways have made payments of interest and repayments of capital on their due dates from British Airways' own cash resources. The Government guarantees have never therefore been called at any time, nor are they expected to be called in the future.

It is our task as managers of the airline to seek to improve the performance and profitability of British Airways in the interests of our passengers, employees and shareholders, be they government or private institutions and investors. Our record speaks for itself and the nation has once again a "flag carrier" of which it can be increasingly proud. It is neither our function, nor our intention, to dismember British Airways by selling off valuable commercial assets.

If Britain is to compete effectively with the intense international competition which exists in the airline industry, it is essential that British Airways remain strong and efficient. Any diminution of the role of British Airways would inevitably be of at least as much advantage to foreign competitors as the independent British operations and would not be in the nation's long-term interest.

Yours faithfully,
KING, Chairman,
British Airways,
Cleveland House,
St James's Square, SW1.

Buildings of beauty

From Mr J. H. Morley

Sir, I was intrigued to read (feature, December 17) that Sir John Summerson "despised" the Granada Cinema at Tooting.

In 1935 he seems to have despised it less than he despised the Royal Pavilion at Brighton, for he expressed the opinion, in his book on John Nash, published in 1935, that the Pavilion was "a curiosity which rouses only a vague, transient wonder in the visitor.

"Its ornaments are scarcely more extravagant than the roundabouts at Hampstead, which they closely resemble; for singularity of form it has long ago been surpassed by the Crystal Palace and the White City; and for richness it compares unfavourably with the Granada Cinema at Tooting."

That same year, 1935, was the year when powerful local voices were raised urging demolition of the Royal Pavilion; it was also the year when Sir Osbert Sitwell asked: "What other buildings exist in England, or, as for that, in Europe, to compare with it in individuality and exotic beauty?"

Fortunately, more people agreed with Sir Osbert than with Sir John. And by 1980 Sir John himself, in his revision of his Nash book, could designate the building "a felicitous materialisation of the careless, humorous, audacious genius of its architect." He omitted his former comments.

So Sir John's opinion has changed! Perhaps 45 years hence his opinion of Battersea power station, etc., will change. But let us hope that, during the interval, nobody listens to him.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MORLEY, Director,
The Royal Pavilion,
Borough of Brighton, Sussex.

Glue sniffers

From Mrs Lena Joy

Sir, As a relatively new arrival in this country may I ask what we, the ordinary people in the street, actually can/should do when coming across a couple of 10-11-year-old glue sniffers?

Do we, by the hundreds, just avert our heads discreetly, "minding our own business", as was the case one sunny Sunday lunchtime a few weeks ago along the Bayswater Road?

Yours faithfully,
LENA JOY,
7 Giles House,
158 Westbourne Grove, W11.

Eleanor statuary

From Mrs Beryl Bandy

Sir, Dr Kahn suggests (December 12) that the statues on the Queen Eleanor crosses should be preserved in a museum and replicas placed on the crosses.

The cross at Geddington is, I consider, the most beautiful of the three, and to rob it of the original statues of the queen would be desecration. As the cross stands in the heart of the village, near to the church and the site of the king's palace, it is a piece of visible history, while in a museum the statues would be, very likely, of faint interest to the people who strolled by.

To the people of Geddington Queen Eleanor is not a remote historical figure, but has been familiar through the centuries to generations of villagers, and the cross should be left intact on the spot where it was erected almost 700 years ago.

Yours faithfully,
BERYL BANDY,
Maple House,
Geddington,
Kettering,
Northamptonshire.
December 13.

Control of Namibia

From Mr H. Maclear Bate

Sir, May I refer to your important article, "The Namibian pressure-point" (December 10). I believe you have correctly stated the position when you say, "... the South Africans do not wish for a settlement".

With respect, I would remind the readers of *The Times* that South African forces captured the territory in a "Blitzkrieg" in World War I – forces headed by the Prime Minister of the time, General Louis Botha. The territory was mandated to the then Union of South Africa.

Since that time South Africa has invested multimillions of pounds in the development of mineral resources, extensions of railways, roads, educational facilities and so on. If South-West Africa (Namibia) were to fall under a black government controlled by the Communist-backed Swapo, as it would be, the republic would have yet another hostile neighbour on its western flank.

Collapse of the economy, the rule of law, would disappear overnight and the state of the tribes would deteriorate disastrously. I submit that these are circumstances which demand that South Africa remains in complete control of the territory.

It is not without good reason that the South African Government appointed one of its cleverest Foreign Affairs officers to the post of Ambassador to Washington, Dr Beaverbrother G. Fourie, formerly Permanent Secretary and Ambassador at the UN, thus maintaining continuity in respect of the South-West Africa saga.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,
H. MACLEAR BATE,
The Talette,
Sticklepath,
Okehampton, Devon.

Aims of Sandinismo

From the Nicaraguan Ambassador

Sir, I write in reply to Sir Alfred Sherman's letter of December 12.

The support for Contadora is a rejection that the crisis in Central America is an East-West conflict. Support comes from all corners of the world – the EEC Stuttgart meeting in June, non-aligned countries, the recent Buenos Aires summit and the United Nations.

What is happening in Central America would have happened whether Cuba and the Soviet Union had existed or not; it is precisely due to United States interference in Central American affairs. The historical record speaks for itself.

The Popular Sandinista Revolution is neither Marxist-Leninist nor a one-party dictatorship. At long last we Nicaraguans have our own national ideology and identity: Sandinismo. There are in Nicaragua 10 political parties. These parties are guaranteed by a law passed in August, 1983; the first time in the political history of Nicaragua. The electoral process is due to begin in February, 1984, to culminate with the national election in 1985. This was originally announced in August, 1980.

We are not in the business of exporting revolutions; but coffee, cotton, sugar, beef and gold. But what cannot be avoided by the Nicaraguans is that our example be followed.

On July 19, 1983, the Government of Nicaragua and the Sandinista National Liberation Front proposed:

1. A complete end to the provision of arms to the forces at war in El Salvador. Let us recall that the Reagan Administration has for two and a half years failed to prove the allegations that Nicaragua was passing arms. On the other hand, the world knows that the Reagan Administration is passing arms to El Salvador.
2. An end to all military support and the use of any territory for the launching of aggression against any government in the area, and
3. A commitment to respect self-determination and non-interference in internal affairs.

At the September meeting of Contadora Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica, under pressure from the Reagan Administration, dragged their feet "so that Mr Reagan can take matters into his own hands".

The case is, while Contadora is working for peace, the Reagan Administration is building up task forces in Central America and invading nations in the area.

Yours sincerely,
FRANCISCO d'ESCOTO,
Ambassador,
Embassy of Nicaragua,
8 Gloucester Road, SW7.
December 14.

Drug smuggling

From Lord Harris of Greenwich

Sir, The Home Secretary is right to warn the country of an alarming upsurge in the abuse of dangerous drugs (report, December 15). As Chairman of the Parole Board I became increasingly disturbed by evidence that sophisticated criminals had become involved with the importation of substantial quantities of heroin and cocaine.

The trade is expanding at a rapid rate. The Treasury informed me recently that seizures of heroin and cocaine by the Customs and Excise had risen from 61kg in the first 10 months of 1979 to 202kg in the same period this year, an increase of over 300 per cent.

In the circumstances it seems extraordinary that the Government has reduced the uniformed strength of the Customs and Excise, our first line of defence against drug smugglers. Since coming into office it has cut the staff by 900 officers, a reduction of 20 per cent.

How many drug smugglers walk through the green channels at Heathrow and Gatwick without being challenged, because of these reductions in staff?

Mr Brittan's warning of the extent of our drugs problem deserves to be taken seriously; not least by his colleague, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

HARRIS OF GREENWICH,
House of Lords.
December 19.

Peace in our time

From Mr M. M. Charlish

Sir, Of the conflicts Mr Graham Greene cites (December 17) the American war in Vietnam was a continuation of the French war in Vietnam. In Malaya, Kenya, Angola, Nigeria, Ethiopia were civil wars/insurrections where the nuclear deterrent was not in possession by either faction, and indeed their mention helps to fortify Mr Heseltine's observation.

As for relative peace (a Humpty-Dumpty expression, surely) between 1918 and 1939, the following matches were played: Greece v Turkey; Italy v Ethiopia; Japan v Manchuria; Japan v China, international games, not local Derbys.

Yours faithfully,
M. McEWAN CHARLISH,
132 Park Lane,
Carshalton,
Surrey.
December 19.

Upstairs, downstairs

From Mr David Griffiths

Sir, Who says there's no integration between London's bus and Underground services?

On leaving a crowded Victoria Line tube at King's Cross this morning I heard the customary shout from the guard: "Move right down inside the cars". He then added with an afterthought: "There's plenty of room on top."!

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GRIFFITHS,
United Oxford & Cambridge University Club,
1 Pall Mall SW1.

COURT AND SOCIAL

SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen will hold investitures at Buckingham Palace on February 14, 21 and 28, March 6, 13 and 20, July 31 and August 2.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester and Princess Alexandra, the Hon Mrs Ogilvy, celebrate their birthdays on Christmas Day.

The Duke of Kent will visit Davy McKee Ltd, the Combined Cadet Force and attend the Cutlers' Feast in Sheffield on March 21.

Princess Alexandra will be present at a reception at Guildhall to mark the 21st anniversary of the Furniture Makers' Company on March 29.

Princess Alexandra will be present at the Royal Air Force anniversary concert at the Festival Hall on March 30.

The Lebanese Maronite Community in London announces the celebration of a Christmas Mass by Father Antoine Sleiman tomorrow at 11 am in St Edward's Convent Chapel, 11 Harewood Avenue, London, NW1 (nearest tube station Marylebone). Everyone is welcome to attend.

Mr Graham Matthews wishes his friends at home and abroad a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr E. M. Astle and Miss A. J. Shackleford
The engagement is announced between Edward Morrison, younger son of the late Mrs M. Astle and of Mr R. Astle, of Worsley, Manchester, and Amanda Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs P. J. Shackleford, of Exmouth, Devon.

Mr N. Athienitis and Miss C. Finlay
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr and Mrs M. Athienitis, Tomswood Hill, Hainault, Essex and Catherine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs P. A. Finlay, Dover Road, Wanstead, London.

Mr R. R. T. Booth and Miss R. B. Baroni
The engagement is announced between Roger Booth, of Chapel Farm House, Bildeston, Ipswich, Suffolk, and Rosalba Baroni, of Manor Corner, Reigate, Surrey.

Mr C. C. A. Cox and Miss K. S. A. M. Mackenzie
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Colonel H. B. Cox and the late Mrs Cox of Farnham, Surrey, and Kathleen, daughter of the late Mr J. B. Mackenzie and of Mrs Mackenzie, of Kensington Park Road, London, W11.

Mr J. K. Daly and Miss K. J. O'Leary
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs P. J. Daly, of Bath, Avon, and Kathleen, youngest daughter of the late Mr D. J. O'Leary and Mrs Rose O'Leary, of Selsdon, Surrey.

Mr C. M. P. Granger and Miss C. D. Cooper
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs N. W. Granger, of Thorp Arch, Yorkshire, and Clare, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs P. J. Cooper, of Shalford, Surrey.

Mr P. R. Hall and Miss M. W. Burger de Frémol
The engagement is announced between Peter, only son of Mr and Mrs R. G. Hall, of Bray-on-Thames, Berkshire, and Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs M Burger de Frémol, of Stoke St Gregory, Somerset.

Mr J. H. Lamplugh and Mrs R. A. Dobbin
The engagement is announced between John Lamplugh, of 73 Canon Street, Winchester, Hampshire, and Vivien Dobbin, of Forge House, Westbourne, Emsworth, Hampshire, widow of Alick Dobbin and daughter of Colonel and Mrs E. T. Heslop.

Mr M. I. Licence and Miss S. E. Wray
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. Licence, RE, and Mrs Licence, of Shipston-upon-Stour, Worcestershire, and Susanna, daughter of Captain A. C. Wray, RN, and Mrs Wray, of Tanglewood, Burley, Hampshire.

Mr T. R Lowry and Miss R. M. Bennett
The engagement is announced between Timothy Robert, son of Mr and Mrs Donald Lowry, of Lyme Regis, Dorset, and Rosanne, daughter of Mr Patrick Bennett, QC, and Mrs Bennett, of Kensington, London.

The Rev T. O. Mendel and Miss F. Wise
The engagement is announced between Tom, son of Mr T. O. Mendel and the late Mrs Mendel, of Andover, Hampshire, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. I. Wise, of Barton, Cambridgeshire.

Mr G. Murray and Miss C. Spooner
The engagement is announced between Gregor, son of the late Mr John Murray and of Mrs J. C. N. Murray, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Spooner, of Shillingstone, Dorset.

Mr J. H. E. Pearson and Miss J. M. Hamber
The engagement is announced between James, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J. L. Pearson, of Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire, and Joanna, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs R. C. Hamber of Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Mr R. J. Simpson, RN, and Miss E. M. Thomas
The engagement is announced between Richard Simpson, of Haywards Heath, Sussex, and Elizabeth Thomas, of Trefriw, Gwynedd.

Mr P. A. Sturridge and Miss S. A. Miles
The engagement is announced between Piers, younger son of Dr J. Sturridge, of Regent's Park, London, and Mrs M. Bowman-Vaughan, of Barham, Suffolk, and Sally, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. V. Miles, of Aldringham, Suffolk.

Mr M. Williams and Miss K. A. Rosamond
The engagement is announced between Mark, only son of Mr and Mrs Austin Williams, of Croydon, Surrey, and Karen Ann, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Rosamond, of Croydon, Surrey.

Mr A. I. J. Wyatt and Miss A. F. Parker
The engagement is announced between Alaric, eldest son of Mr and Mrs S. V. Wyatt, of Charlbury, Oxfordshire, and Angela, only daughter of Mr and Mrs V. L. Parker, the British Embassy, Stockholm.

Marriage

Mr R. D. Swan and Baroness Sharples
The marriage has taken place between Mr Robert Douglas Swan and the Baroness Sharples, now at Nunswell, Higher Coombe, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 9LR.

Latest appointments



Mr Thomas Arfon Owen is to succeed Mr Aneurin Thomas as director of the Welsh Arts Council. He will take up his appointment in April 1984 when Mr Thomas retires.

Mr Keith Stuart, chairman of Associated British Port Holding to join the board of the Royal Ordnance Factories as a non-executive director.

Mr Justice Skinner to be Chairman of the Judicial Studies Board, in succession to Mr Justice Webster, from January 1, 1984. Mr Justice Farquharson to be a member of the board from the same date.

Birthdays

TODAY: Sir Dennis Allen, 73; Mr Colin Cowdrey, 51; Brigadier Dame Barbara Cozens, 77; Mr Nicholas Fairbairn of Fordell, QC, MP, 50; Mr E. Fernyhough, 75; Sir Stafford Foster-Sutton, QC, 85; Dame Joan Kelleher, 68; Miss Thea Porter, 56; Miss Noel Streatfeild, 88; Mr J. D. Taylor, MP, 46; Sir Kenneth Thompson, 74; Viscount Thurso, 61; Mr P. S. Ziegler, 54.

CHRISTMAS DAY: Lord Annan, 67; Sir Noel Bowater, 91; Mr Andrew Cruickshank, 76; Mlle Francoise Durr, 41; Lord Energlyn, 71; Mr Kenny Everett, 39; Lord Grade, 77; Sir Peter Matthews, 66; Mr Ismail Merchant, 47; Sir Charles Mott-Radclyffe, 72; Professor Noel Odell, 93; Sir Geoffrey Organe, 75; Mr Nigel Starmer-Smith, 39.

BOXING DAY: Mr Patric Dickinson, 69; Mr Alastair Dunnett, 75; Miss Irene Handl, 81; Professor Thea King, 58; Miss Jane Lapotaire, 39; Mr T. K. Lyle, 80; Mr Dennis Quilley, 56; Sir Mark Tennant, 72.

Church news

Archdeacon of Rochester
The Rev M Turnbull, chief secretary of the Church Army since 1976, to be Archdeacon of Rochester and Canon Residentiary of Rochester Cathedral. He hopes to take up his appointment in April 1984 when he will also become chairman of the Rochester Diocesan Board for Mission and Unity.

Third century reflections on the birth of Christ

The short and colourful stories gathered around the record of Christ's birth in the stable at Bethlehem bear about them the character of impressionist painting: they offer witness to the deep impact which Christ made on his followers and to mysterious traits in his personality which seemed to elude any down-to-earth interpretation.

But the new-found faith demanded more than picturesque charm for its support. Something was needed by way of *a philosophy which should* set the Christmas message firmly within the framework of contemporary enlightenment.

St Paul had done precisely this, within 30 years of Christ's ministry, by explaining, in his letters to the Galatians and the Philippians, that the gradual unveiling of truth which, under God's benevolent purpose, constitutes man's education, could not stop short of a full and loving demonstration in the universal language of a human life.

Such is the theme drawn out in the fuller commentary offered by those Christian thinkers whose fortune it was to breathe the atmosphere of the University of Alexandria, famed for its eager search after truth and its wide-ranging sympathies.

Of these third-century scholars two were preeminent: Clement, polished and at home in any company, and Origen, prodigiously learned and zealous to the point of fanaticism.

Both were well aware of the difficulties involved in making an infinite God responsible for creation in time and for interventions in history, and both regarded as providentially helpful the idea that the Word, or thought or wisdom, proceeds from the unknowable Father and acts as his personal agent in the work of ordering the world and illuminating the heart of man.

Greek philosophers as far back as Anaxagoras in the fifth *century* BC had maintained that "mind came and set all things in their place", thus anticipating the author of the Old Testament Book of Proverbs, who held that wisdom was God's "master workman" when the foundations of the earth were being marked out, the active principle of Godhead pulsing about the world and co-operating in such perfect harmony with the Transcendent Deity as to be "daily his delight".

Clement develops such ideas by assuming that the principle "God is love" underlines the course of history. The Word, he explains, has always been in the world as instructor, speaking with the voice of conscience or in the power of beauty, offering freedom through Moses and Plato and many another until the moment was judged appropriate for the immortal to put on mortality and reveal his nature openly when Pontius Pilate was procurator of Judaea.

"God pitied us from of old", remarks Clement, "but now He has appeared and saved us", where "salvation" is to be understood as union with God on a basis of clear knowledge.

It is in line with this type of Christian doctrine that the earliest carved stone coffins discovered in and around the Roman catacombs show a marked preference for displaying Christ as the teacher of mankind, now bearded and venerable, now in the graceful charm of permanent youth, but ever with the scroll of authority in his hand, instructing his disciples where to find truth amid the mazes of folly and disputation.

Origen argues in precisely the same manner as Clement that revelation consists of a gradual progress controlled by the divine Word who sums up all hints and imperfect discoveries in an incarnation, a disclosure of so radical and decisive a nature that, after it, things can never be quite the same again.

The whole matter, as Origen explains it, may be compared with the steps leading up to the holy of holies in the Temple: the ascent is a gradual one until finally God is known in himself.

Origen offers a number of sermons on the Christmas theme. *One of them starts from* St John's observation that "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all". Origen develops this thought in characteristic fashion: the radiance of this light is the Son who proceeds from the Father without separation (as does radiance from any light) and illumines the whole creation. By the help of this radiance men understand and experience what the Light is.

A simpler illustration is suggestion by St Paul's claim that Christ is the "representation of the being of God". Origen says: "Let us imagine a statue of such a size as to fill the entire world and so vast that no one could contemplate it.

"Then let us imagine that another statue was made, identical with the first as regards shape of the limbs, features and the whole outward appearance but diminutive in size. The purpose of this miniature would be that those who could not properly grasp the nature of the enormous statue would look at the tiny copy and assert that, the copy being an exact likeness, they had gathered from it the essential character of the original.

Origen is here crystalizing the third-century argument that, after due preparation in the works of nature and in the heart of man, God is obliged to cut himself down to recognizable size and speak to his people in language which the simplest of them can hardly fail to grasp or the fine wit of any philosopher think inadequate as a theme for lifelong contemplation.

Robert Milburn
formerly Dean of Worcester and Master of the Temple

University news

Oxford

Oxford University is to confer honorary degrees on the following at the Encaenia on June 27.

DCL: Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, VC, OM, founder of the Cheshire Foundation Homes.

DLitt: Professor Alexander Gieysztor, professor of medieval history at Warsaw University and president of the Polish Academy of Sciences, *and Mr Philip Larkin, poet and* novelist. DSc: Professor Sir Edward Abraham, FRS, emeritus professor of chemical pathology at Oxford University, and Professor Friedrich Hirzebruch, professor of mathematics at Bonn University, and director of the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in Bonn.

DMus: Dame Eva Turner, the prima donna.

Elections

TRINITY COLLEGE: To an exhibition, R G Gameson, *Ford Student of the college* (formerly of Brentwood School).
QUEEN'S COLLEGE: To a Hastings Scholarship, A. A. W. Wright, Leeds GS.
EXETER COLLEGE: To an emeritus fellowship from October 1, 1983, F R Barrow, MA, DPhil (BSc, Lond).
BRASENOSE COLLEGE: Scholarships by promotion: Ancient and modern history, Peter Tennyson, formerly of Gravesend S, exhibitioner of the college; biochemistry, Alyson Coates, formerly of Dr Challoners HS, exhibitioner of the college; mathematics, Jamie Mutton, formerly of Forest Fields VIth form, exhibitioner of the college.
WADHAM COLLEGE: Emeritus fellows, Ian MacHattie Crombie, MA, and I D McFarlane, MA; honorary fellow, Professor Lawrence Stone; official fellow and domestic bursar, *Rear-Admiral* J P Edwards; official fellow and tutor in English, Alan Ward.
PEMBROKE COLLEGE: Organ scholarship from October 1, 1984: Hugh Robson (Edinburgh Academy).
Official fellowship in modern languages (Italian) from April 1, 1984: J R Woodhouse, MA, PhD, St Cross College.

Cambridge
Elections

Mr D G T Williams, MA, LLB, president of Wolfson College, reader in public law, has been elected into the Rouse Ball Professorship of English Law from December 1, 1983.
Professor R F V Heuston, regius professor of laws, Trinity College, Dublin, has been elected Arthur Goodhart Professor in Legal Science for 1986-87.
Professor P Temnin, professor of economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been elected Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions for 1985-86.
Appointments as univeristy lecturers.
French: Miss H S Kay, MA, D Phil (Oxon) MA (Read), from January 1, 1984, for three years; engineering: J M Maciejowski, MA, PhD (Pembroke College), BSc (Sussex), from October 1, 1983, for three years, and D F Moore, MA, (Fitzwilliam College), PhD (Stanford) from January 1, 1984, for three years; history and philosophy of science: S J Schaffer, MA, PhD (St John's College), MA (Harvard), from April 1, 1984, for three years.

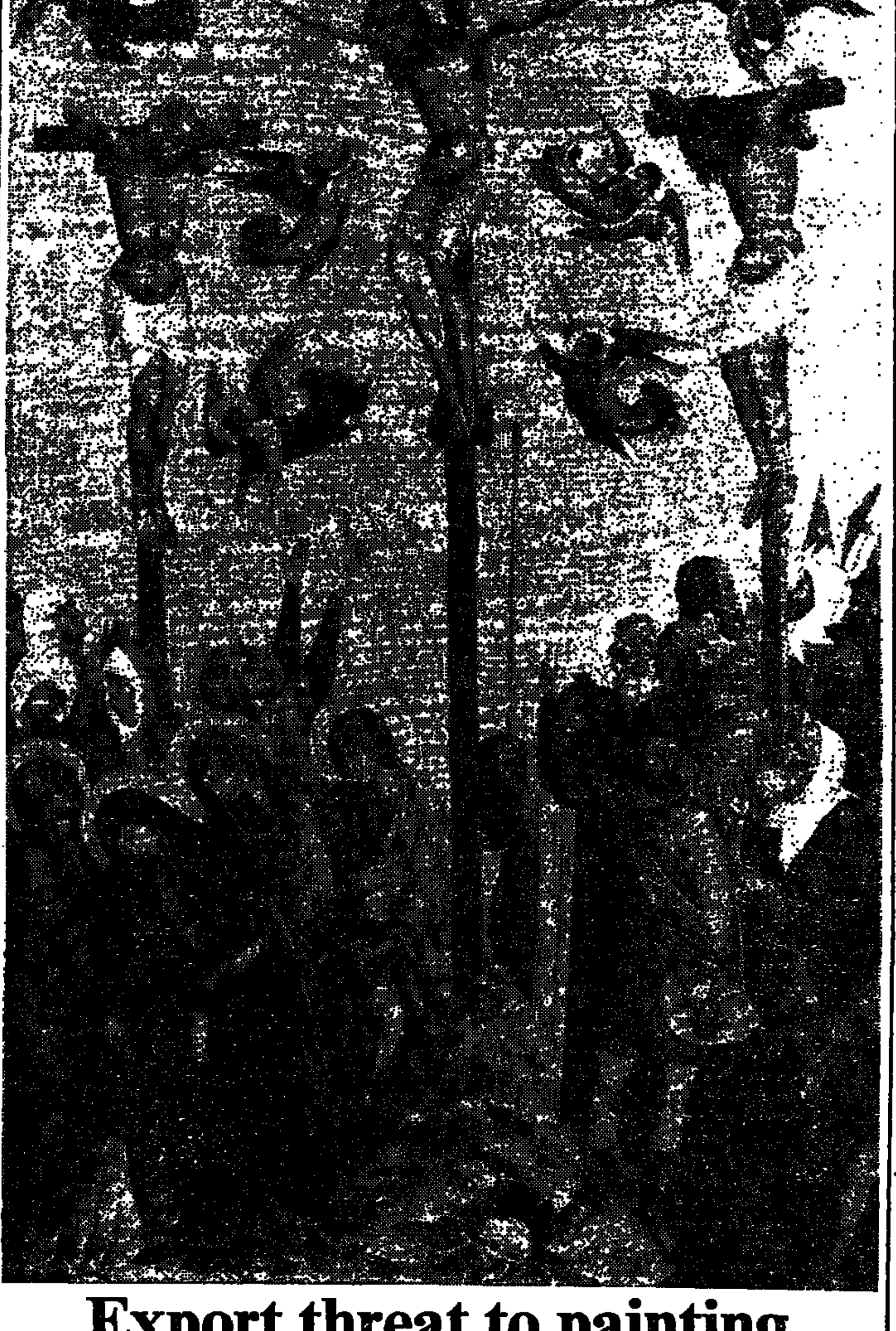
Awards

Le Bas Prize, 1983: M E J Hughes, BA Girton College, and P J Smith, MA, Trinity Hall, Aeq.
Allen scholarships for 1983-84: C N Bates, MA, Sidney Sussex College, R Beddow, BA, Conville and Caius College, S C Coupland, BA, St John's College, R M Harris, MA, Clare College, N J Marston, BA, Corpus Christi College, N Zeeman, BA, Clare College.
Le Bas Research studentships, 1983-84: L C Dunn, MA, St Edmond's House, A A Firay, Girton College, S M Hart, BA, Downing College, S P J Lavery, Emmanuel College.
W A Meek scholarships, 1983-84: V Arce-Arenales, M Phil, Wolfson College, T C Guan, BA, Wolfson College, S R Tait, BA, Clare Hall.
T H Middleton Prize 1983: H S Ainsworth, Newnham College.
Amy Mary Preston Read Scholarship, 1983-84: A V Gillespie, BA Corpus Christi College.

Latest wills

Mrs Evelyn WOODHOUSE, of Burghwallis, Doncaster, South Yorks, formerly of Hexthorpe, left estate valued at £1,098,955 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Bowkett, Mr Albert Harold of Margate ... £284,412
Ferrier, Mr Henry Paul of Farnham, Surrey ... £283,647
Stonte, Mr Richard Walter, of Leckhampton, Gloucestershire £247,356



Export threat to painting

The future of an early fourteenth century Sienese painting of the Crucifixion (pictured above) will depend on seven months of fund-raising activities by groups determined to keep the piece in Britain (David Hewson writes).

There was little optimism in arts circles last night that there would be sufficient public support to raise the necessary £1,798,000 while an export licence is withheld.

The painting was at one time attributed to Duccio, though latterly there has been doubt cast on its authorship. It is described officially as an early fourteenth century painting of the Sienese school which shows a treatment of St Longinus curing his blindness by applying Christ's blood to his eyes.

There is speculation in the art world that the painting may be bought for an American collection.

The painting has been in Britain since at least 1854 when it was bought by the Rev Walter Davenport Bromley. It was purchased in 1863 by Lord Lindsay, later the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, and remained in his family until it was sold in 1976.

Science report

Rich harvest from an isolated plateau

By Tony Samstag

Many of the scientists employed by Sandoz, the international pharmaceuticals corporation based in Switzerland, are under standing instructions to take soil samples wherever they travel abroad on the principle that "with a bit of luck, a handful of soil or sludge that the layman would dismiss as merely so much dirt can, in the hands of clever research workers, turn into a priceless treasure."

The microbiologists struck gold most spectacularly with a sample from the Hardanger Vidda, a high treeless plateau in southern Norway, from which was isolated a fungus that has proved invaluable in organ transplants and other clinical conditions requiring an immunosuppressive agent.

The sample was first isolated in 1970; its active agent was synthesized 10 years later, and the product registered in Switzerland for bone-marrow transfusions last year. Most recently, ciclosporin (trade name: Sandimmun) was administered in Scandinavia's first heart transplant operation, in Olso.

Writing in the company's house magazine, Dr Erik Wiskott describes the new drug as "the prototype of a new generation of immunosuppressive agents" and most especially the first to act selectively on immunocompetent lymphocytes, those white blood cells that eliminate or reject substances foreign to the body.

Because ciclosporin does not act on the phagocytes, the bacteria-devouring cells, its use does not weaken the body's immune response to bacterial or fungal infection, the main drawback of traditional immunosuppressives. The agent, moreover, attacks the lymphocytes in the early phases of cell proliferation induced by antigens, unlike conventional agents, which destroy the cells utterly in later stages; "the inhibiting effect is therfore reversible".

Its creators and manufacturers are convinced that "a new wave of heart transplantations set in all over the world" once the efficacy of the product had been established in clinical trials at Stanford, California, two years ago. "The Stanford team drew so much encouragement that they also renewed performing combined transplantations of heart and lungs."

Production of ciclosporin is still quite slow (the initial fermentation process alone takes 14 days) and costly; but the company looks to the history of penicillin, which was almost priceless when developed in the 1940s and now sells in bulk for 50 Swiss francs per kilo.

The Norwegian Society for the Conservation of Nature has not been slow to exploit the "magic mushroom" for its own ends. "If the lowly *Tolypocladium inflatum* from the Hardanger Vidda can produce a wonder drug", the society argues, "what other miracles might men discover if they studied wildlife before destroying it?"

Source: *International Sandoz Gazette* no 45, 1983.

Christmas services

WESTMINSTER ABBEY, HC 8, M 10.30, Vaughan Williams in G. Behold I bring you glad tidings (Gibbons). The Dean. Procession and Sung Eucharist 11.40. The blessed son of God (Vaughan Williams) Stanford in C and F; E 3 (Gibbons Second Service) Sre. See, the word is incarnate. Abbey is closed immediately after Evensong.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: HC 8; M 10.30, Jub and TD, Britten in C, Very Rev Dr A Webster; HC 11.30, Coronation Mass in C, K317 (Mozart), Int. This day Christ was born (Byrd); E 3.15, Mag and Nunc dimittis (Dyson in D). A. For unto us a child is born (Handel). Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck).
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: Cathedral Eucharist 11, Spatzenmesse (Mozart) A. Carols. The Provost.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Mass, Spatzenmesse (Mozart), Hodie Christus natus est (Poulenc), O Magnum Mysterium (Poulenc), 3.30 Vespers, Magnificat octavi toni (Morales), Bethlehem Down (Warlock), A Spotless Rose (Howells).
THE CHAPEL ROYAL St James's Palace: HC 8.30; Sung Eucharist 11.15, Darke in A minor, Canon A D Caesar.
THE QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY (public welcomed): HC 8.30; Sung Eucharist 11, Darke in F.
ROYAL NAVAL CHAPEL, Greenwich: HC 8.30 and 11.00, The Chaplain.
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks: M 11, The Chaplain; HC noon.
GRAY'S INN CHAPEL: HC 8.30.
LINCOLN'S INN CHAPEL (public invited, entry via Lincoln's Inn Gateway): HC 10, Rev F. V. A. Boyse.
TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street (public welcomed): HC 8.30; MP 11.15, followed by HC, TD, Vaughan Williams in G; Jub Deo (Walton) A. Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck), The Master; Organ Voluntary.
ST CLEMENT DANES (RAF Church) (public welcomed): HC 8.30; Choral Eucharist 11, Schubert Mass in G, Ding dong merrily on high (arr. Wood). The Chaplain, Assisting, Staff Chaplain.
CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: HC 9.30; M 11, Stanford in C, Gloria in excelsis Deo (Weelkes), Canon M Moore; HC 12.15.

ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER: Family Service with Communion and Carols, 11, Rev M. Beech. (The church will remain open all day.)

ALL SOULS, Langham Place: HC, 9.30, 12.30; Christmas morning service, 11, Rev R. Bewes.
ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street: High Mass of Midnight and Procession to the Crib, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Bishop of London; Hm, 11, Missa Brevis in G, K140 (Mozart), The Vicar, E (said), 6.
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH: HC 7, 8, noon; Children's service, 10, 11, Rev C. E. L. Thomson; E (said), 6.
GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street: HM, 11, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Hodie Christus Est (Sweelinck).
HOLY TRINITY, Brompton: HC, 8; Family Service, 11, Rev S. Millar; HC, 12.15.
HOLY TRINITY, Prince Consort Road, SW7: HC, 8.30; Choral MP with Eucharist, 11, Rev Dr M Israel.
HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street (Sloane Square Tube): HC 8.30; HC 10.30 with hymns and carols; HC 12.10.
ST ALBAN'S Holborn: LM, 9.30; HM, 11, L'Hora Passa (Viadana) Carols, Fr Gaskell.

ST BARTHOLOMEW-THE-GREAT PRIORY (AD 1123): HC 9; Choral Eucharist, 11, Wood in the Phrygian mode, The Rector.
ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street: Choral Mattins and Eucharist, 11, Noble in B minor, Int. Fanfare (Shaw), Jub, Stanford in B flat, The Rector, E (said), 6.30, The Rector.
ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square: HC 8.30; Sung Eucharist 11, Stanford in A, A. There is no rose (Darlaw), The Rector.
ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: HC (1662), 8.30; Sung Eucharist, 11, The Rector.
ST MARGARET'S, Westminster: HC 8.15, 12.15; Choral M and Sermon, 11, Canon T Beeson.
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, Family Communion, 9.45, Rev G Hedley; MS, 11.30, The Vicar; HC 12.30; ES 6.30, Norman Ingram-Smith.
ST MARY ABBOTS, Kensington: HC 8 and 12.30; Sung Eucharist 9.30, The Vicar; M 11.15, Rev P. M. Arnold, E (Sung) 4.30.
ST MARY'S, Bourne Street: LM 8, 9.45; HM 11, Missa octavi toni (Lassus), Resonet in laudibus (Handl), Infant holy, Infant lowly (anon), Fr J Gilling.
ST MARYLEBONE PARISH CHURCH: HC 8 and 11, Spatzenmesse K220 (Mozart), The Shepherds' farewell (Berlioz), Rev R McLaren.
ST MICHAEL'S, Chester Square: HC 8.15; Family Service 11, Rev E G H Saunders; HC, 11.45, Rev E G H Saunders.
ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge: HC 8 and 9; Solemn Eucharist, 11, Rev A C C Courtauld.
ST PAUL'S, Robert Adam Street: HC, 11, Rev G Cassidy.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square: HC, 8.15; Family Mass with Carols, 10; SM, 11, Mass for Four Voices (Byrd), Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck).
ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road: Blessing of Crib and HM, midnight, Missa O Magnum Mysterium (Victoria); LM, 8, 9; HM, 11, Missa super mon coeur se recommande à vous (Lassus), Prebendary H Moore.
ST VEDAST, Foster Lane: SM, 11, Merbecke, Rev G Reddington.

ST COLUMBA'S (Church of Scotland) Pont Street: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10; Family Service, 11, Very Rev R L Small.
CROWN COURT CHURCH (Church of Scotland) Russell Street, Covent Garden: Christmas Day Service, 11.15, Rev J Miller Scott.

THE ORATORY, SW7: Midnight Mass, St Cecilia Mass (Gounod), For Unto Us a Child is Born (Handel); LM 7, 8, 9, 10; AM 11; Missa Brevis in B flat (Mozart), Quem vidistis (Victoria); LM 12.30, 4.30; Vespers 3.30.
ST ANSELM AND CECILIA, Kingsway: SM 11, Weihnachtsmesse (Wassmer), Tui sunt caeli (Von Eybler).
ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place (Holborn Circus): Midnight Mass, Carols, 11.30, Followed by SM, Mass in C, Mozart Coronation, Magnum Mysterium (Vittoria).
THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street (Regent Street), W1: Blessing of the Crib; Midnight Mass (Sung), 11.30pm, Messe de Minuit (Charpentier); LM 10, 11, noon, 4.
CHURCH OF OUR LADY, St John's Wood: SM (Latin), 10.45, Missa ad Praesepe (Malcolm), Proper: Puer Natus (Byrd).
THE JESUIT CHURCH, Farm Street: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 11 (Sung Latin Mass) Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn); 12.15, 4.15, 6.15.
REGENT SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: (United Reformed), Tavistock Place: 10, Rev W Workman.
ST JOHN'S WOOD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (Presbyterian/Congregationalist) Lord's Roundabout, NW8: 9.30am Rev J Miller.
CENTRAL HALL, Westminster: 40 Minute Family Service, 10.30 Rev Dr R J Tudor.
WEST LONDON MISSION, Hinde Street Methodist Church, W1: 10 Rev J A Newton; 6 Rev K Howcroft.
CITY TEMPLE, Holborn Viaduct, EC: 10 Rev Dr B Johanson.
WESTMINSTER CHAPEL, Buckingham Gate, 11 and 6.30, Rev Dr R T Kendall.
WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road: 11 Dr R C Gibbins.

OBITUARY

DR RONALD POPPERWELL

Scandinavian studies in Britain

Dr Ronald Popperwell, who died in Cambridge on December 22, was Head of the Department of Scandinavian Studies at Cambridge, and an indefatigable supporter of the cause of Scandinavian studies in the United Kingdom.

Born and brought up on Loughton, Essex, he left school at 16 and worked in an insurance office until 1940, but kept up his French and his music – it had been his first ambition to be a professional violinist and he became ARCM in 1936.

In 1940 he volunteered for the Intelligence Corps in the hope of putting his linguistic talent to use, and then spent four years in Shetland, at the terminus of the famour "bus service" that was to be the staple of his later career. Shetland remained a lifelong enthusiasm, and to his last years he returned there to play in oratorios presented in Lerwick at Christmas time.

In 1946 he went to King's College, Cambridge, to read Norwegian and French. He took his PhD in 1951, with a dissertation on the Norwegian poet and novelist Kristofer Uppdal. Cambridge was his home thereafter: University Lecturer in Norwegian 1953, Fellow of Clare Hall 1965, Head of the Department of Scandinavian Studies 1979.

He was Visiting Professor at Wisconsin 1965-66, and he received many invitations to Norwegian universities. He also had close relations with University College London, where he was W. P. Ker Lecturer 1951-52 and Special Lecturer in Norwegian 1977-81.

A supporter of the cause of Scandinavian Studies (and in Cambridge of "minority" subjects in general), he worked hard to spread the connections of the comparatively isolated British scholars in the field. He was a founder member of the International Association of Scandinavian Studies and its British secretary from its inception in 1962; an active member of the Modern Humanities Research Association; and chairman of the inter-university committee of enquiry into Scandinavian Studies 1976-78.

In Cambridge he was an energetic and conscientious chairman of the Faculty Board 1968-72 and 1974, and Director of the Literary and Linguistic Computer Centre from 1971 until his retirement. When the "Mixed Commission" under the British-Norwegian Cultural Convention was formed in 1974, his membership was a foregone conclusion.

As a scholar he was by no means hidebound or timid in his choice of subject and method. His published work ranged from a book, *The Pronunciation of Norwegian* (1963) to translations of major novels by Dunn and Falkberget. A bold and interesting characterisation of Norway past and present appeared in Benn's "Nations" series in 1972.

A unique work of permanent value is the rich *Norsk litteraturantologi* (1976), composed of texts, commentary and cassette recordings, which he prepared with Torbjørn Stoverud from materials made available by the Norwegian State Radio. But his most substantial contribution to Norwegian literary studies was his critical work on Knut Hamsun, a book to which he devoted many years of his academic life and which he had virtually finished at his death.

King Olav V appointed him Knight First Class of the Royal Norwegian Order of St Olav in 1975.

MR CHARLES LLOYD PACK

Charles Lloyd Pack, the character actor, died on December 22, aged 81. His name, whilst seldom at the top of the bill, was one of the most respected in his profession; and his face and persona were as readily identifiable to the public as those of many actors whose names are more immediately familiar.

Born in east London on October 10, 1902, his career spanned sixty years on the stage, in the cinema and on television.

His forte was for historical parts and for comic and character performances – his beady-eyed judge the dotty vicar, his slightly sinister don. Among his West End performances for which he will be best remembered were those in *The Kingmaker* at his St James's, shortly after the war (he was a superb Henry VI) and as both Inquisitor and Dauphin in productions of Shaw's *St Joan* at about the same time.

He was Scrub in his 1949 production of *The Beaux' Stratagem* at the Phoenix, directed by John Clements; the farther in *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (1950 at the Embassy); Dr Protheroe in *The Happy Marriage* and, typically, Clowry, the disillusioned widower in *Nightmare Abbey*. In Gielgud's splendid production of *School for Scandal* at the Haymarket in 1962.

During the early 1970s, already in his eighth decade, he enjoyed a long St Martin's summer in lavishly staged, meticulously directed West End revivals: notably, *Reunion in Vienna, Dandy Dick* and *Waters of the Moon*. His final portrayal, early this year, was one of his finest: Mazzini Dunn in a pre-London run of *Heartbreak House*.

Films in which he was at the top of his form included *High Treason* (a spy in the Civil Service) and *Victim* (the hairdresser) and most recently *The Mirror Cracked* (another suspect vicar).

He was also seen frequently on television serials: among them, *Simon and Laura, The Caesars* and an early production of *Barchester Towers*. Two of his strongest television performances were as Archdeacon Daubenny in *A Woman of No Importance* and as the oily Rörlund in *Pillars of Society*.

For 40 years he was sustained by the love and loyalty of his Austrian-born wife, Uli, who survives him; and the fact that both their sons have taken up successful careers on the stage – Roger as an actor Christopher as a manager – gave him pleasure and pride.

PROF WALTHER ZIMMERLI

Professor Walther Theodor Zimmerli, who died at Oberdiessbach in Switzerland on December 4 at the age of 76, was one of the most distinguished Old Testament scholars of the post-war period, as well as a prolific writer, an influential teacher, and a respected university administrator.

Zimmerli was born on January 20, 1907, at Schiers, in Canton Graubünden, where his father was a pastor. From the *Gymnasium* at Schiers he proceeded to the universities of Zurich, Berlin and Göttingen. He was *Assistent* in Old Testament at Göttingen until 1933.

He spent some years as Professor at Zurich until 1951, when Göttingen appointed him to the Chair of Old Testament, which he held until his retirement in 1977. From 1964 to 1966 he was Rector of the university.

Zimmerli's greatest contribution to Old Testament scholarship was in the interpretation of the book of *Ezekiel*. His massive two-volume commentary in the *Biblischer Kommentar* series is unequalled by any other modern study of Ezekiel in depth of erudition, acuteness of critical anlysis, and perceptive theological interpretation. Zimmerli also published a number of studies preparatory or ancillary to the commentary, notably *Ezechiel: Gestalt und Botschaft* (1972).

A number of his shorter and less technical books appeared in English translations: *The Law and the Prophets* (1965); *Man and His Hope in the Old Testament* (1968); *The Old Testament and the World* (1976). So did his *Grundriss der alttestamentlichen Theologie* (1972), the second edition of which was translated as *Old Testament Theology in Outline* (1978).

In addition to his *Ezechiel*, Zimmerli produced two simpler and less substantial commentaries: one on *Ecclesiastes* (which reflects his work on Israelite Wisdom) in the series, *Das Alte Testament Deutsch*, and two volumes on *Genesis* 1-25, intended for use by the laity, but rich in theological content.

Zimmerli presided over the Ninth Congress of the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament at Göttingen in 1977. He held honorary doctorates from Zurich, Edinburgh and Strasbourg, and he was an honorary member of the American Society of Biblical Literature and of the British Society for Old Testament Study. In 1972 the British Academy awarded him the Burkitt Medal for Biblical Studies.

COLONEL R. A. ALEC-SMITH

Colonel Rupert Alexander Alec-Smith, who died on December 23 at the age of 70, was Lord Lieutenant of Humberside from 1980 to 1983, and had been active for many years in Kingston upon Hull. He was Lord Mayor 1970-71 and became chairman of the Hull Bench in 1965.

He also played a considerable part in the preservation of Georgian buildings. He founded the Georgian Society for East Yorkshire in 1937, serving for many years as honorary secretary and president. For some years he was editor of the Georgian Society's *Transactions*.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1977, and was awarded an honorary DLitt by Hull University in 1979.

HARRY MILLER

Harry Miller, a South African double bassist who was a familiar figure in the British modern jazz scene of the 1970s, died in Holland on December 16, after a road accident. He was 42.

Miller played in jazz and rock groups in Johannesburg before emigrating to England in the late 1960s. During the succeeding years, he performed with practically all the leading young British jazz musicians.

He appeared with Mike Westbrook, Stan Tracey, Keith Tippett, John Surman, Alan Skidmore, Mike Osborne and his fellow South African, Chris McGregor.

In the late 1970s he emigrated to Holland, where he collaborated with leading Dutch modern jazz musicians.

THE TIMES

Christmas television and radio

SATURDAY DECEMBER 24 1983

FOUR-PAGE PULL-OUT GUIDE TO YOUR HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

FILMS ON TV Edited by Peter Waymark

TODAY

BBC1

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT (1949) ●
10.50am-12.30pm
Likeable musical-comedy version of Mark Twain's story of the handyman who falls from his horse and finds himself transported back to sixth-century Camelot. Bing Crosby plays him and sings "Busy Doin' Nothin' " in an unlikely trio which also includes William Bendix and Sir Cedric Hardwicke.

THE MAGIC OF LASSIE (1978)
2.30-4.10pm
After a long break the famous collie returns to the cinema; and the same can be said for Alice Faye, making a cameo appearance as a waitress. There is also James Stewart and Mickey Rooney and a musical score by the *Mary Poppins* team.

FLASH GORDON (1980) ●●
7.10-8.55pm
Lively, funny and spectacular re-birth of Alex Raymond's comic-strip hero (Sam Jones), making a perilous rocket flight to Mongo in the company of Dale Arden (Melody Anderson) and the scientist Dr Zarkov (Topol) to defeat the dastardly Emperor Ming (Max von Sydow).*

BBC2

SCROOGE (1951) ●●
1.05-2.30pm
One of Alastair Sim's most delicious screen performances as the miserly Ebenezer with strong support from a distinguished band of British character actors, including Michael Hordern (as Jacob Marley), Mervyn Johns (Bob Cratchit), Kathleen Harrison, Jack Warner and Hermione Baddeley.

THAT TOUCH OF MINK (1962) ●
3.25-5pm
The BBC continues its eightieth-birthday tribute to Cary Grant with this plush comedy of the sexes in which he plays a bachelor millionaire in pursuit of virginal secretary Doris Day. The jokes and the outcome are fairly predictable but Grant's polished playing is a joy.

TO CATCH A THIEF (1955) ●
10.45-12.35am
Cary Grant again, as the jewel thief trying to live down his past on the French Riviera in company with Grace Kelly. Lightweight comedy thriller directed by Alfred Hitchcock as a way of re-charging his batteries for more testing assignments.

ITV

JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS (1963)
2.30-4.25pm ●
Todd Armstrong plays Jason, in search of the Golden Fleece and encountering all sorts of hazards – including a seven-headed hydra – on the way; but the real star is that king of special effects Ray Harryhausen.

MAJOR BARBARA (1941) ●●
2.05-4.35pm
Faithful adaptation of the Shaw play about the arms manufacturer's daughter who joins the Salvation Army; it was directed by Gabriel Pascal, the eccentric Hungarian who managed to talk Shaw into making his work available for the cinema. Wendy Hiller is a fine Barbara and there are also relishable performances from Rex Harrison, Robert Morley, Robert Newton and Emlyn Williams.

STORMY WEATHER (1943) ●●
7-8.30pm
Lively all-black musical revue loosely based on the life of its leading man, that marvellously talented tap dancer Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. Also involved are Lena Horne, Fats Waller, Cab Calloway and the pianist from *Casablanca*, Dooley Wilson.

SANTA CLAUS CONQUERS THE MARTIANS (1964)
10.30-12.15am
The seasonal offering from the Channel 4 "Worst of Hollywood" season in which a Martian leader lands on earth and kidnaps Santa and two children, one of whom is played by the nine-year-old Pia Zadora, currently trying to be a sex bomb in *The Lonely Lady*.*

CHRISTMAS DAY

BBC1

THE LITTLE CONVICTS (1979)
11.20am-12.35pm
A mixture of real backgrounds and animation as Rolf Harris, playing Jake the Peg with the Extra Leg, tells the story of the convicts who settled and built Australia in the nineteenth century.

TREASURE ISLAND (1950) ●
3.50-5.25pm
Though made by Disney with an American, Bobby Driscoll, as Jim Hawkins, this is a respectful version of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic yarn of pirates and buried treasure, dominated by Robert Newton's marvellously overplayed Long John Silver.*

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER (1983)
10.15-11.45pm
The first showing in Britain of David Niven's last film in which he and Art Carney are trying to get their hands on a fortune inherited by the granddaughter of the woman they both loved. With Maggie Smith and Lionel Jeffries; the writer-director, a rare visitor to the cinema these days, is Bryan Forbes.*

BBC2

MEET ME IN ST LOUIS (1944) ●●●
4.25-6.15pm
Judy Garland season starts on BBC2 with one of her best musicals, indeed one of the best musicals made by anyone, an affectionate evocation of turn-of-the century America, warmly directed by Vincente Minnelli. The numbers include "The boy next door", "Have yourself a merry little Christmas" and the "Trolley song".

DUCK SOUP (1933) ●●●
11pm-12.10am
Of all the Marx Brothers films, this is one that offers the purest concentration of gags, without the distraction of pianos and harps and romantic interludes. Freedonia gets a taste of Marxist rule as *Rufus T. Firefly (alias Groucho)* wages war on Sylvania, for whom Chico and Harpo are working as double agents.

ITV

SUPERMAN (1978)
3.15-5.40pm
Pretentious, heavy-handed and overlong version of what should have been an enjoyable comic strip, notable more for Marlon Brando's salary ($3m for a 10-minute performance) than anything that appears on the screen. A pity for Christopher Reeve, a personable leading man who deserves better.

REVENGE OF THE PINK PANTHER (1978)
9.10-11pm
Last and feeblest of the true Pink Panther films, a perfect example of a good idea worked to exhaustion. But Peter Sellers, as the accident-prone Clouseau, still has his moments.*

Channel 4

THE GANG'S ALL HERE (1943) ●●
1.15-3.10pm
Even by his standards, one of the most flamboyant of Busby Berkeley musicals with two particularly memorable numbers: Carmen Miranda singing "The Lady with the Tutti-Frutti Hat" supported by 60 girls; and the finale, involving two huge mirrors on either side of a revolving stage. With Alice Faye, Benny Goodman and his Orchestra and Eugene Pallette.*

MONSIEUR HULOT'S HOLIDAY (1953)
4.25-6pm ●●●
The first, probably most effective and certainly funniest appearance of Jacques Tati's amiable, simple-minded creation who never really comes to terms with the twentieth century and leaves chaos in his wake. His holiday is in a small seaside resort in Brittany, observed with all Tati's genius for comic detail.*

THE KING OF COMEDY (1982) ●●
8.25-10.25pm
A quick television showing for Martin Scorsese's dark and obsessional comedy about an aspiring funny man (played by Robert de Niro) who is so desperate to appear on a television chat show that he arranges the kidnapping of the show's host, Jerry Lewis. Scorsese says it is an examination of American values.*

BOXING DAY

BBC1

THE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI (1957) ●●
2-4.35pm
Alec Guinness leading the Brits in a psychological battle of wits against the Japanese in a prisoner of war camp in Burma. Directed with characteristic craftsmanlike care by David Lean but arguments still go on about the precise meaning of the film's climax.

ROCKY (1976) ●●
7.50-9.45pm
Sequels in the cinema are rarely as good as the originals and the Rockys have been no exception. This first one, though, freshens up the hackneyed story of the boxer who makes good with a vibrant performance from Sylvester Stallone (who also wrote the script) and convincing Philadelphian locations.*

BBC2

MAME (1974)
5.25-7.15pm
Indifferent version of a successful Broadway musical, with Lucille Ball unhappily cast as the eccentric aunt and being easily upstaged by Beatrice Arthur.

THE IPCRESS FILE (1965) ●
10.25pm-12.15am
The first and best of the three adaptations from Len Deighton's spy thrillers featuring Michael Caine as the shabby, bespectacled James Bond antidote who was not named in the books but arrived on the screen as Harry Palmer. This one has him on the track of a missing scientist. Sidney J. Furie directs, ostentatiously.

ITV

THE SPY WHO LOVED ME (1977)
6.30-8.45pm
Roger Moore as 007 and Barbara Bach as the cheesecake in an undistinguished addition to the James Bond cycle which bears little relation to Ian Fleming's book and relies on tired set pieces to cover up the cracks. The outsize Richard Kiel, however, makes a splendid heavy.







Getting an airing: Margaret O'Brien (left) and Judy Garland in Meet Me in St Louis; Jacques Tati as the accident-prone Monsieur Hulot; Sylvester Stallone as Rocky

From rarely seen to evergreen

There is no doubt about the quantity. Feature films will be coming out of the box at the rate of 10 a day over the Christmas week and it will need several pairs of eyes, several sets and a battery of video recorders to keep up with them.

As for the quality, with so much to choose from it is hard to believe that even the most casual film watcher will not find something to taste, helped, we may hope, by our day-by-day, channel-by-channel critical guide.

The films roughly fall into three categories. There are the fairly recent releases, most of them coming to television for the first time. Some are very recent, such as Scorsese's *The King of Comedy*, which only appeared in the cinema in the middle this year.

Others under this heading include *Superman*, *Revenge of the Pink Panther*, *The Spy Who Loved Me*, *The China Syndrome*, *The Dogs of War*, *Rocky*, *Carrie*, *Flash Gordon*, *Oh God!* and *Coma*.

A second category embraces films of proven popularity that tend to be revived fairly regularly over holiday periods. *The Great Escape* is the archetypal example and others this year are *The Bridge on the River Quai* and *El Cid*. What we do not have, for better or worse, are *The Sound of Music*, *The Railway Children* or *The Wizard of Oz*.

That leaves what might be called classic revivals, films of generally older vintage, many familiar but others long forgotten except by that devoted band of cinema buffs who manage to catch up with them at an art house or a film society.

How many people, for instance, will have seen the *Mr Moto* series with Peter Lorre, which, Channel 4 has unearthed? Or Bill "Bojangles" Robinson and company in *Stormy Weather?* Or even some of the Judy Garland films being shown on television for the first time?

Several film "seasons" are running through the week. The Cary Grant tribute, anticipating his eightieth birthday next month, continues with three of his Hitchcocks, while another of 1984's octogenarians, Dame Anna Neagle, is being fêted on Channel 4. There is a fairly full Marx Brothers retrospective on BBC2, but, brilliant though they are, the films must be pretty familiar to most of us by now.

What the week notably lacks is a sizable contribution from the rich cinema of the Continent. The glorious exception is *Monsieur Hulot's Holiday*, which starts a short Jacques Tati season on Channel 4.

Our star rating system (totally subjective, but we hope of value) is as follows:

●●● Not to be missed
●● Highly recommended
● Worth watching

An asterisk at the end of an entry indicates that the film is being shown on British television for the first time.

THE FORTUNE (1974)
Midnight-1.35am (Thames only)
Stockard Channing's perky performance as the threatened heiress is the bright spot in this misconceived black comedy that somehow manages to waste both Warren Beatty and Jack Nicholson, not to mention its talented director, Mike Nichols.

Channel 4

A SWARM IN MAY (1983) ●
11.05am-12.35pm
Writer-director Colin Finbow's unusual piece for the Children's Film Unit about a 10-year-old choirboy (played by Oliver Hicks) who becomes involved in the ancient custom of bee-keeping at a rural cathedral. With Frank Middlemas as the organist who befriends him.*

THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER (1938) ●
12.30-2pm
David O. Selznick's pleasant, if static version, of the classic story by Mark Twain. Tommy Kelly, a non-professional actor from the Bronx, plays Tom, and Jackie Moran is Huck Finn, while there is a rich character-playing from old Hollywood hands Walter Brennan, May Robson and Victor Jory.

RENALDO AND CLARA (1977) ●
9.30-12.40am
Written and directed by Bob Dylan, this long and complex film uses footage from the Rolling Thunder Revue concert tour of 1975 and 1976 as a framework for an exploration of Dylan's life as a poet and singer, with improvised acting and near-surreal sequences that defy literal interpretation.*

HOLIDAY TUESDAY

BBC1

EL CID (1961) ●● 1.35-4.30pm
Charlton Heston as the legendary knight of medieval Spain putting the Moors to flight in an epic well above average in the intelligence of its script, its superb colour photography and the perceptive direction of Anthony Mann. Sophia Loren adds her decorative presence.

HOOPER (1978)
6.25-8pm
Burt Reynolds produced as well as starred in this story of a Hollywood stuntman trying to maintain his position against a younger rival. Actions count for more than words but the stunts are impressive.*

BBC2

THE WIZ (1978)
4.25-6.35pm
An all-black version of *The Wizard of Oz*, based on a Broadway musical, with a soul and disco score and set in New York. Diana Ross is an unconvincing Dorothy but other characters are more successfully cast and director Sidney Lumet gives it a strong visual style.*

OH, GOD! (1977) ●
10.20pm-midnight
John Denver as a supermarket manager visited by God, who wears an anorak, sneakers and a baseball cap and turns out to be none other than the grand old man of American vaudeville George Burns, whose professionalism lifts an otherwise slight comedy.*

ITV

THE SONS OF KATIE ELDER (1965) ●
3.15-5.25pm
John Wayne and Dean Martin lead in a roistering and violent revenge western that goes on too long but has its moments. Directed by Henry Hathaway who guided Wayne to an Oscar in *True Grit*.

THE CHINA SYNDROME (1979) ●●
9-11.15pm
Accident at a nuclear power plant investigated by TV reporter Jane Fonda, radical cameraman Michael Douglas and technician Jack Lemmon in a thriller with a message which builds genuine suspense and contains believable characters superbly acted.

Channel 4

THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN (1939) ●
10.55am-12.30pm
Huck is played by the young Mickey Rooney, his first starring part, in a pleasing adaptation of the Mark Twain story, with the Sacramento River standing in for the Mississippi. Nice performances, too, from Walter Connolly as "The King" and William Frawley as "The Duke".

SPRING IN PARK LANE (1948) ●●
5-6.45pm
A short tribute to Dame Anna Neagle starts with one of her most successful vehicles, taken from the series of romantic comedies with Michael Wilding which made such an impact in austerity Britain. She plays the niece of a wealthy art collector falling for the new footman at her uncle's lavish apartment. Herbert Wilcox, Dame Anna's husband, directs.

MR MOTO'S GAMBLE (1938) ●
11.20pm-12.35am
The first of three Mr Moto adventures being screened on Channel 4, featuring Peter Lorre, with steel-rimmed glasses and buck teeth, as the cunning Japanese detective created by John P. Marquand. They pretended to be no more than second features but were well above par for their type.*

WEDNESDAY

BBC1

DODGE CITY (1939) ●
1.50-3.30pm
Errol Flynn as a cattleman cleaning up the frontier town in an enjoyable Warner Brothers western which makes fresh use of familiar ingredients such as the cattle drive along the Chisholm Trail and the bar-room brawl. Olivia de Havilland and Ann Sheridan in support; the director is Michael *(Casablanca)* Curtiz.

THE GREAT ESCAPE (1963) ●
6-8.45pm
John Sturges's prison-camp epic with the sombre climax can still grip, even if we have seen it several times on television already. Leading the POWs are Steve McQueen (and his famous motorcycle sequence), James Garner and Dickie Attenborough, with a particularly effective performance from Donald Pleasence as the camp forger.

Leading lady who was our sort of star

Dame Anna Neagle started her career on the stage, and this Christmas, in her eightieth year, she returns to it in the pantomime *Cinderella* at Bristol. But for 20 years or so, either side of the Second World War, she was much better known as a leading lady of the cinema and was several times voted Britain's biggest box-office draw.

She made her first film in 1930 and two years later was Jack Buchanan's leading lady in *Goodnight Vienna*. The producer-director was Herbert Wilcox, and it was the start of a famous partnership, for in 25 years she appeared for only two other directors.

Wilcox may not be numbered among this country's more creative film-makers, but he had a showman's feel for what the public wanted and, in collaboration with his wife, managed consistently to catch the popular mood, whether with musicals, historical dramas or romantic comedies.

From *Goodnight Vienna* Neagle went on to Noel Coward's *Bitter Sweet* and to *Nell Gwyn* and in 1937 achieved her first popular triumph as *Victoria the Great*. The film was so successful that a sequel, *Sixty Glorious Years*, was rushed out for the following year. She played other British heroines in *Nurse Edith Cavell* and *They Flew Alone*, the story of Amy Johnson.

In 1946 she was teamed with Michael Wilding for the first time in *Piccadilly Incident*. The Neagle-Wilding films were essentially an escape form post-war austerity, and as Godfrey Winn wrote of the principals: "They're our sort of people, not so-called glamour stars, but good hard-working professionals – laughing, dancing and romancing together".

When the cycle had run its course, Neagle returned to biopics, as Odette Churchill and Florence Nightingale; played opposite Errol Flynn, of all people, in *King's Rhapsody;* and tried to make a star of Frankie Vaughan. In 1958 she retired from the screen, and with *Room At the Top* and its ilk just around the corner, her timing was impeccable; but she left much that can still be enjoyed, as Channel 4 viewers will discover over the next few days. (The Anna Neagle films are on Tues, Wed, Thurs and Fri. *The Lady with the Lamp* is on Dec 31 and *Bitter Sweet* on Jan 2).

BBC2

PRESENTING LILY MARS (1943) ●
1.40-3.20pm
Judy Garland season continues with the story about the small-town girl who makes it on Broadway. But if the plot has serviced a score of musicals there is still much to enjoy, from the freshness of the young Judy to expertly staged numbers.*

FUNERAL IN BERLIN (1967)
9.30-11.10pm
Another excursion into Len Deighton territory as Michael Caine is sent to Berlin to seek out a potential Russian defector, played in larger-than-life style by Oscar Homolka. Competently done but it needs a genius to unravel the plot.

HORSE FEATHERS (1932) ●●●
11.15pm-12.25am
Early Marx Brothers comedy and one of their best in which the gags come fast and furious and even the musical bits earn their keep. The plot – as if it mattered – has Groucho as the president of a college signing up some dubious recruits for the football team that must win at all costs.

ITV

THE THIEF OF BAGDAD (1978)
3.30-5.15pm
Not, sadly, the marvellous film Michael Powell made for Korda but the most recent version of the Arabian Nights fantasy with Peter Ustinov as the Caliph, Terence Stamp as the villainous Wazir and Roddy McDowall as Hasan. Efficiently directed by Clive Donner.*

CARRIE (1976) ●
10.15pm-12.10am
Gory piece of horror from Brian de Palma, one of the best current exponents of the genre. Sissy Spacek plays the repressed high school girl whose supernormal powers help her to exact a terrible revenge on those who taunt her; and Piper Laurie is superb as the religion-crazy mother.*

Channel 4

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME (1949) ●
3-4.45pm
The last film by Busby Berkeley as director (though he left before the end and the musical numbers were completed by Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen). The story of vaudevillians who spend their summers playing baseball, it was a sort of dry run for *On the Town* with four of the same stars – Kelly, Frank Sinatra, Betty Garrett and Jules Munshin.

VICTORIA THE GREAT (1937) ●●
4.45-7pm
With Prince Albert much in the public eye at the moment this revival is well timed, though the film is notable not so much for Anton Walbrook's portrayal of the Consort as Anna Neagle in her most famous screen role (which she repeated in two more films) as the Queen. An imperious performance helped by fine work from the make-up department.

THINK FAST, MR MOTO (1937) ●●
10.55pm-12.10am
Second in the Mr Moto season (though the first to be made) has Peter Lorre's Japanese detective getting to grips with a gang of smugglers on board a freighter sailing from San Francisco to Shangai.*

THURSDAY

BBC1

BROTHER OF THE WIND 1975
2.05-3.30pm
Wildlife film, set in the Canadian Rockies, starring Dick Robinson (who also directs) as an animal handler who rescues the orphaned pups after the mother wolf is shot dead from a passing plane.*

COMA (1977) ●
9-10.50pm (Wales 11.20pm-1am)
Michael Crichton's morbid thriller about a young doctor (Genevieve Bujold) whose investigation into a series of terminal comas reveals an international medical conspiracy. It has received much critical attention of late, not least from the feminist camp; the Bujold character is certainly her own woman.*

BBC2

EVERYBODY SINGS (1938) ●
2.05-3.25pm
A very early Judy Garland vehicle in which she is a talented daughter of a theatrical family trying (yes, you have guessed) to put on a Broadway show. Thanks to their servants – Played by the unlikely pair of Allan Jones and Fanny Brice – they manage it. Ideal for filling a cheerless December afternoon.*

SUSPICION (1941) ●●
4.25-6.00pm
Joan Fontaine won the Oscar she might will have had for her previous Hitchcock film, *Rebecca*, as the shy society girl who marries dashing playboy Cary Grant and comes increasingly to suspect that he is trying to do away with her. Nice support from Hollywood Brits Sir Cedric Harkwicke, Dame May Whitty and Nigel Bruce.

THE GYPSY MOTHS (1969) ●
7-8.45pm
Burt Lancaster leads a team of sky divers and falls in love with Deborah Kerr in a film that contains splendid aerial sequences, intelligently handled human relationships and the carefully observed setting of a small Kansas town. One of the better efforts of its talented but uneven director John Frankenheimer.

A NIGHT IN CASABLANCA (1946) ●●
10.50pm-12.15am
The penultimate film of the three principal Marx Brothers has them trying to sort out Nazi refugees in a North African hotel; not quite up to the standard of their best 1930s work but it is worth suffering the dull bits for some splendid moments of inspired comedy.

ITV

GREAT EXPECTATIONS (1975)
1.30-3.50pm
Dull version of the Dickens classic, despite a promising cast that includes Michael York as Pip, Sarah Miles as Estella, James Mason as Magwitch, Margaret Leighton, Robert Morley and Anthony Quayle.

THE DOGS OF WAR (1980)
9.45-11.45pm
Christopher Walken's Oscar-winning performance in *The Deer Hunter* must have suggested him to play the mercenary hero of Frederick Forsyth's novel about a plot to take control of a bankrupt west African state. But the film is no more than adequate.*

Channel 4

HOLIDAY INN (1942) ●
2.55-4.45pm
Easy-going and unpretentious song-and-dance vehicle for two of the best in the business, Fred Astaire and Bing Crosby, playing joint owners of a roadhouse hotel trying to catch the eye of Marjorie Reynolds. Along the way are a host of Irving Berlin numbers including "White Christmas".

THE COURTNEYS OF CURZON STREET (1947) ●
4.45-6.50pm
Anna Neagle and Michael Wilding are back with this romantic drama which starts in Victorian times with an upstairs-downstairs marriage between a baronet's son and a lady's maid and continues the theme through two succeeding generations. Lush, escapist and, in its time, enormously popular.

THANK YOU, MR MOTO (1937)
10.30-11.50pm
Peter Lorre's Moto is employed by Pauline Frederick to find the treasure of Genghis Khan, buried somewhere in the Gobi desert.*

FRIDAY

BBC1

KHARTOUM (1966) ●
1.45-3.50pm
Dullish epic of British imperialism about General Gordon's last stand in the Sudan. Though the cast includes such heavyweights as Laurence Olivier (as the Mahdi) and Ralph Richardson (Gladstone) by far the best performance comes from Charlton Heston as Gordon. Basil Dearden directs.

WARLORDS OF ATLANTIS (1978)
6.20-7.55pm
One for the kids as a giant octopus kidnaps intrepid Victorian scientists and takes them to the lost city of Atlantis. Older movie watchers may wonder what Cyd Charisse, the leggy dancer from 1940s musicals, is doing in such a place.

THE MIDNIGHT MAN (1974)
11.25pm-1.25am
Burt Lancaster stars in a film he also co-wrote, co-produced and co-directed (with Roland Kibbee) as a killer let out on parole who becomes a college security guard and tries to unravel a convoluted murder case.

BBC2

THE PIRATE (1948) ●
1.40-3.20pm
Lively minor MGM musical, directed with characteristic feel for decor by Vincente Minnelli, and starring Gene Kelly and Judy Garland who find romance in the nineteenth-century Caribbean. The songs are by Cole Porter.

NOTORIOUS (1946) ●●●
4.50-6.30pm
Cary Grant as American secret service man sent to smoke out a Nazi cell in Rio de Janeiro, enjoying a memorable screen kiss with Ingrid Bergman and trying to outwit the sinister Claude Rains. Among the finest of Hitchcock's thrillers, consistently inventive and engrossing.

BILLION DOLLAR BRAIN (1967)
9.30-11.15pm
The last of the Michael Caine-Len Deighton trilogy, with our downbeat hero encountering old adversary Oscar Homolka in Finland; the plot is denser than ever but there are some visual pyrotechnics from director Ken Russell, including an ice battle pinched from *Alexander Nevsky*.

ANIMAL CRACKERS (1930) ●●
11.55pm-1.35am
Early Marx Brothers' film which is technically primitive and betrays its stage origin, but contains generous helpings of the brothers' wit and style. Groucho plays an African explorer turning up at a country-house party in uproar after the theft of an old master.

ITV

LIVE A LITTLE, STEAL A LOT (1974)
7.30-9.15pm
Based on the real story of two beach loafers from Miami who stage an elaborate jewel robbery at the Museum of Natural History in New York. They are played by Robert Conrad and Don Stroud.*

Christmas Eve



Stars of the shows: Roger Daltrey in "The Comedy of Errors" (BBC2) and Cilla Black with her new-style "family" (ITV)

BBC 1

8.35 Inch-High Private Eye: American cartoon (r).

9.00 From All of Us to All of You: Christmas treat from Walt Disney. Clips from favourite cartoons, including *Snow White* and *Peter Pan*.

9.45 The Happy World of Hanna-Barbera: Gene Kelly introduces clips from cartoons featuring characters such as Fred Flinstone and Huckleberry Hound.

10.50 Film: A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1946) *Bing Crosby in a comedy* musical, based on Mark Twain's story ●.

12.30 Bonanza: Venerable western, with Lorne Greene and Dan Blocker. A yarn-spinning *desparado is accused of* murder and robbery.

1.20 Around the World with Dot: (1982) Cartoon about a global search for a little girl's lost kangaroo. With Drew Forsythe. Made in Australia.

2.30 Film: The Magic of Lassie (1978) TV movie about the wonder dog. With James Stewart, Mickey Rooney. ●

4.10 The Dukes of Hazard: Coy falls in love with Billie Ann, one of the stunt-bicycle riding Baxley Sisters, but Vance feels his cousin's affections may by misplaced.

5.00 News: read by Jan Leeming.

5.10 Some Mother's Do 'Ave 'Em: A story of a very unhappy flying instructor. Frank (Michael Crawford) starts a course of lessons. Frederick Jaeger plays the fearful teacher (r).

5.55 Pop Quiz: Dave Edmunds and Roger Taylor captain the two teams. Facing the questions are Mari Wilson, Limahl, Lee John (touring with Imagination) and Midge Ure (Ultravox's front man).



Saving: Melody Anderson in Flash Gordon (7.10 pm)

6.30 The Little and Large Show: The line-up of guests includes Jimmy Cricket, Joe Brown, magician Martin Daniels, Cleo Rocos, and Chas and Dave (singing Melancholy Baby).

7.10 Film: Flash Gordon (1980) The comic strip comes to life. With Sam Jones, Topol, Melody Anderson, Brian Blessed and Max Von Sydow ●.

8.55 Val Doonican's Christmas Party: Old-fashioned festive celebrations, with special guests Howard Keel (former Hollywood star, now a member of the *Dallas* repertory company), The Nolans, Sky, and Wall Street Crash.

9.40 Bergerac: Guest actress Liza Goddard plays the notorious jewel thief who arrives in Jersey, on holiday, just when the private auction of a huge diamond is to take place. Bergerac (John Nettles) keeps a gimlet eye on her. None the less, the jewel is stolen. What is more, it happens right in the middle of the auction.

10.35 News: read by Jan Leeming. And Christmas Day weather.

10.45 The Good Old Days: Edwardian-type entertainment from the City Varieties, Leeds, with Leonard Sachs as the gavel-banging chairman. The entertainers: Danny La Rue, Valeria Masterson, Robert White, Bernard Cribbins, Barry Cryer, the Clark Brothers – and a newcomer from Paris, the comedy-magician Caetan Bloom.

11.45 Midnight Eucharist: While millions of viewers sit at home, five hundred worshippers will be in the Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin, Blackburn, for the traditional service of carols, readings and sermon.

12.45 Weather forecast.

BBC 2

1.05 Film: Scrooge (1951*) Alastair Sim, cast against type, as Dickens's old skinflint. With Kathleen Harrison and (as Marley's Ghost) Michael Hordern ●

2.30 Shakespeare in Perspective: Roy Hudd, the comedian, shows how effectively the Bard made use of "gags" and "comic routines" in his plays. This is a curtain-raiser to tonight's (5.00) production of The Comedy of Errors.

2.55 The Book Game: First of four literary quizzes, *chaired by Robert Robinson* (the rest can be seen on consecutive days, from tomorrow). Today's contestants: Anthony Burgess, Germaine Greer, *Susan Hill* and *Adam Mars-*Jones. Freddie Jones reads the extracts.

3.25 Film: That Touch of Mink (1962) Cary Grant/Doris Day comedy, with Gig Young in support ●

5.00 The BBC Television Shakespeare: The Comedy of Errors. Roger Daltrey and Michael Kitchen play the two pair of identical twins. Strong support from Wendy Hiller, Cyril Cusack, Charles Gray, Suzanne Bertish and Joanne Pearce.

6.55 Sky at Drury Lane: Highlights of the show staged at the Theatre Royal earlier this month. John Williams, on guitar, leads the group, (Herbie Flowers, Tristan Fry, Steve Gray and Kevin Peek.) Special guest; Patrick Rös.

7.45 News: the reader is Jan Leeming.

7.55 Cider with Rosie: Another chance to see Hugh Whitmore's television adaptation (remarkably faithful to the original) of Laurie Lee's recollection of his boyhood spent in a small Gloucestershire village. Filmed on location in Slad, near Stroud. With Rosemary Leach as the writer's mother and Stephen Grendon as one of the three Lauries. Others in the cast: Mary Merrall, Catherine Lacey, Michael Robbins and Carl Bernard. First seen in 1971. and warmly received by most critics.

9.30 Private Lives: A compilation of some of the best moments from the chat shows that Maria Aitken hosted earlier this year. By general consent, the level of conversation was a cut or so above the average. Tonight's excerpts feature Tracey Ullman and Patrick Lichfield, Miriam Stoppard and Alan Price, Beryl Reid and Kingley Amis, Clare Francis and Yehudi Menuhin, and Barbara Castle and A J P Taylor.

10.00 Whistle Test Presents: Live from the Hammersmith Odeon. Paul Young and the Royal Family's final concert in their 12 Days of Christmas tour. The concert can also be heard on Radio 1. In stereo.

10.45 Film: To Catch a Thief (1955) Alfred Hitchcock's sophisticated thriller, with Cary Grant, Grace Kelly, Jesse Royce Landis and the invaluable (but now departed) John Williams. Ends at 12.35am. ●

CHANNEL 4

2.05 Film: Major Barbara (1941*) Wendy Hiller as the Salvation Army daughter of a munitions tycoon, in Gabriel Pascal's respectful film of Shaw's argumentative play. With Rex Harrison, Robert Morley, Walter Hudd and Robert Newton. ●

4.35 Unforgettable Swingtime Unashamedly nostalgic show, hosted by Pat Phoenix (Coronation Street's Elsie Tanner), which looks back at some of the hit songs from the Twenties to the early Fifties. They are performed by Kay Starr and Ronnie Hilton, backed up by the Mike Morton Orchestra and Singers.

5.05 Brookside: Omnibus edition of *the estate serial*. The news that Michelle and Marie have been so anxiously awaiting arrives *at last*, in the form of a Christmas card. And Marie finds herself waiting at a hospital – with Father Christmas (r).

6.00 News headlines. And weather prospects for Christmas Day. Followed by:- **A Wee Bit Cheeky:** One-hour curtain-raiser for a new series starting on Channel 4 in the new year called Everyone A Special Kind of Artist. Tonight's film is about comic postcard artist Arnold Taylor, now in his seventies. His fat ladies, skinny husbands and double-entendres are familiar to eveybody who has ever been into a seaside postcard shop. But he has also designed postcards for children. And we also see something of the portraits he did during his "Desert Rats" days in North Africa.

7.00 Film: Stormy Weather (1943*) Hollywood shop-window for some of America's remarkable black talent, including Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Lena Horne, the Nicholas Brothers and Fats Waller. ●

8.30 An Evening with Max Wall: A second chance to see this entertainment which helped launch the first week of Channel 4 programmes last year. It was filmed on the stage of London's Garrick Theatre, and reflects all aspects of the comedian's skill, including his lunatic antics at the piano as Professor Wallofski, and his tripping of the light fantastic. (r)

9.30 It's Got to be Funny, Hasn't It? A rare chance to compare the on-stage Max Wall (see 8.30 entry) with the off-stage Max Wall. The funny man is seen in conversation with Peter Williams, looking back over 75 years in show business. Filmed in his bedsitter in south-east London which has been his home for 12 years, estranged from his family and away from the warmth of an audience and the high life he once enjoyed. There are extracts from his own television series that were so popular in the Fifties. We also see him in sequences from John Osborne's The Entertainer and Beckett's Waiting for Godot.

10.30 Film: The Worst of Hollywood: Santa Claus Conquers the Martians (1964*) With Leonard Hicks, Vincent Beck and Pia Zadora. Ends at 12.15. ●

Pretending: Billy Dainty, Julie Rogers, Kenneth Connor and Dana in the 3-2-1 pantomime, Dick Whittington (ITV, 6.45 pm)

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain: with the Parkinsons (Michael and Mary). Includes Roland the Rat's Christmas Wonderland (Father Christmas appears at 8.30).

8.40 Data Run's Christmas Party: Panto quiz, with Jeremy Beadle; Terry Jones and the devil; parcel-passing robots; and guest stars Lynsey de Paul, the Belle Stars, the Lotus Eaters, Tracey Ullman, and Madness. Ends at 9.25 am.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Metal Mickey: The bossy robot decides that he should be in charge of the Wilberforce's *family panto* – and play the front end of the cow (r).

9.55 Cartoon Time: *festive fun.*

10.05 The Monsters' Christmas: New Zealnd story about a wicked witch who steals some monsters' voices – and a girl's quest to find them.

11.00 The Smurfs' Christmas Special: the tiny folk versus Something Evil.

11.25 The Freggles are Coming: Curtain-raiser for a new puppet series.

11.30 Terrahawks: Zelda launches an all-out attack – despite the season of goodwill (ie Christmas).

12.00 Film Fun at Christmas: Cartoons and flesh-and-blood fun at the Roxy cinema. With Derek Griffiths (r).

1.00 Adam Ant: Prince Charming Revue. Music, pantomime, and theatre – on the stage of London's Dominion theatre. The aim was to get away from the traditional rock show format; **2.20 Tweety Pie.**

2.30 Film: Jason and the Argonauts (1963). High adventure on the trail of the famous Fleece. With Todd Armstrong, Nancy Kovack, Honor Blackman. ●

4.25 News from ITN.

4.30 The Krankies at Christmas: Music and laughter show. The guests include Bernie Winters, Melvyn Hayes, Jimmy Cricket, Sarah Hollamby, Pepe and the Gang, Barbara Dickson and Modern Romance.

5.15 Chips: Thieves steal a church treasure during the Christmas season. With Larry Wilcox and Erik Estrada as the police patrol chums.

6.10 Punchlines: Tonight's celebrity partners are Diana Dors and Christopher Biggins, and the Punchline "pals" include Faith Brown, Barbara Kelly, Bob Carolgees and Spit the Dog, and Mike Reid. The contestants are Shaun Labrum, from Thetford, and Alison Tessier, from Haywards Heath.

6.45 3-2-1: A special Dick Whittington edition of the family game show, hosted by Ted Rogers. Appropriately, all the contestants are children.

7.45 Cilla Black's Christmas Eve: The singer, "at Home" (ie in the studio) welcomes show business *guests who drop in* to wish her the compliments of the season. She also chats, by satellite, with some friends across the Atlantic (the Bee Gees, for instance, and George Benson). Others involved are Frankie Howerd (singing some awful Christmas songs that did not make the hit parade) and some singers of carols that did stay the course.

8.45 News from ITN.

9.00 Hart to Hart: The husband and wife sleuths infiltrate a company that is setting up a series of Christmas robberies. *Co-starring* Robert Wagner and Stefanie Powers as the sleuthing spouses. They can *also be seen, live from the* United States, in the Christmas night show on ITV – Jimmy Tarbuck's Christmas All Stars (7.45 pm).

10.00 Film: Agatha Christie's Murder is Easy (1981) Mass murder in Scotland. Strong cast includes Bill Bixby, Lesley-Anne Down. Olivia de Havilland, Jonathan Pryce, Anthony Valentine and Timothy West.

11.45 Midnight Mass: from St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle upon Tyne. The celebrants include the Right Rev Hugh Lindsay, Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle; the Very Rev Canon Francis Kearney, the Rev Paul McSwaine, and the Rev Philip Carroll. Organist and choirmaster: David Allison. Closedown at 12.40.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN
† Stereo. ★ Black and white. (r) Repeat.
● Christmas films, page 17.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALES 10.45-11.45am Christmas cards from the Ascension. Iris Williams unites Welsh servicemen and personnel on Ascension Island with their families back in Wales, through the medium of song. 12.45am Weather for Wales; Close. SCOTLAND 11.45-12.30am Watch Night. A Christmas Service from the Parish Church of St George's – Tron, in the heart of Glasgow. 12.30am Weather for Scotland; Close. NORTHERN IRELAND 12.45am Weather; Northern Ireland news headlines. Close. ENGLAND 12.50am Close.

ANGLIA As London except: 5.15pm-6.10 Knight Rider 12.40am Closedown

ULSTER As London except: 5.15pm-6.10 Knight Rider. 12.40am Closedown.

S4C Starts: 1.40pm Black on Black 2.35 Amateur Naturalist 3.00 The Tube 4.30 Utopia Ltd 5.00 Yr Awr Fawr 6.00 Sgryfil 7.00 Newyddion 7.15 'Dolig Etto 'Nghymru Annwyl 8.50 Rockers Roadshow 10.25 Audience with Kenneth Williams 11.50 Film: Stormy Weather (Bill Robinson) 1.20am Closedown

SCOTTISH As London except: 5.15pm-6.10 Knight Rider. 11.45 Watchnight Service. 12.30am Closedown.

TSW As London except: 11.25am-11.30 Gus Honeybun's Birthdays 5.15pm News 5.18-6.10 Knight Rider 12.40 Closedown

HTV As London except: 5.15pm-6.10 Knight Rider (David Hasselhoff). HTV WALES No variations.

TVS As London except: 5.15pm-6.10 The Fall Guy: Devil's Island. 12.40am Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 5.15-6.10 Knight Rider. 11.45 Watchnight Service. 12.40am Reflections. 12.45 Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except: 9.25am-11.00 Little Rascals followed by Space 1999. 5.15pm Puffin's Pla(i)ce. 5.18-6.10 Knight Rider. 12.40am Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 5.15pm-6.10 Knight Rider. 12.40am Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: 9.25am Morning Glory 9.30-9.55 Metal Mickey 5.15pm-6.10 Knight Rider 12.40am Closedown

GRANADA As London except: 5.15pm-6.10 Knight Rider. 12.40am Quincy. 1.35 Closedown.

BORDER As London except: 5.15pm-6.10 Knight Rider 12.40am Closedown

CENTRAL As London except: 5.15pm-6.10 Knight Rider. 12.40am Closedown.

Christmas Day

Edited by Peter Davalle





Shaping up well: Robert Hardy and friends in James Herriot's "All Creatures Great and Small" (BBC1) and The Two Ronnies (BBC1)

BBC 1

8.35 The Christmas Raccoons: musical cartoon, with the voices (spoken) of Rich Little and (sung) of Rita Coolidge and Rupert Holmes.

9.00 Carols from Newby Hall: Christmas cheer from this famous Yorkshire house. Ian Carmichael's guests are Grace Kennedy, Robert White, and the Cambridge University Chamber choir.

9.50 Away in a Manger: Christmas through the eyes of primary schoolchildren from all parts of the country.

10.20 Christmas Morning Family Service: From The Mint Methodist Church, Exeter. With the President of the *Methodist Conference*, the Rev Amos Cresswell; 11.17 Weather.

11.20 The Little Convict: *Rolf Harris* (as Jake the Peg) in a tale about the wrongdoers who helped to create Australia.

12.35 Ziggy's Gift: Short, animated film about a street-corner Santa Claus who gets a job with a confidence trickster; **1.00 Bugs Bunny:** cartoon.

1.05 Film: Glitterball (1977) Children's Film Foundation fantasy about a thing from outer space befriended by two young lads. With Ben Buckton and Keith Jayne.



Singing: Grace Kennedy in Carols from Newby Hall (9 am)

2.00 Top of the Pops 1983: Best-selling entertainers on parade, including Michael Jackson, Shakin' Stevens, Men at Work, Bonnie Tyler, Duran Duran, Bucks Fizz, Lionel Richie and David Bowie.

3.00 The Queen: The Christmas Day broadcast to the Commonwealth (also on BBC 2, at 9.50, with sign language).

3.15 Blankety Blank: Festive edition of the word game, with panellists Sabina Franklyn, Roy Kinnear, Ruth Madoc, Patrick Moore, Beryl Reid and Freddie Starr. The MC: Terry Wogan.

3.50 Film: Treasure Island (1950) Disney version of the R. L. Stevenson classic with Robert Newton (Long John) and Bobby Discoll (Jim Hawkins) ●

5.25 News: read by Jan Leeming.

5.35 Jim'll Fix It: Mr Saville makes it possible for two blind teenagers to ride around the Horse of the Year course, and for a young lad to become Santa Claus and bring good cheer to a local Darby and Joan club.

6.15 Songs of Praise Special: Choirs, churches and schools in Peterborough combine at the cathedral for a special edition of this hugely popular programme.

7.15 The Two Ronnies: Comedy highlight is a tale called The Adventures of Archie. Mr Corbett has the title role, with Mr Barker as the Genie, and Carol Hawkins as The Blonde. Guest *star*: Elton John.

8.05 All Creatures Great and Small: Back to James Herriot's Yorkshire Dales for another yarn about country vets. All the old familiar faces are back on parade (Christopher Timothy, Carol Drinkwater, Robert Hardy and Peter Davison).

9.35 Only Fools and Horses: The festive jollity is restrained at the Trotters' high-rise flat, and the arrival of an unexpected visitor (Mr Trotter Senior) does little to change things.

10.05 News: the reader is Jan Leeming.

10.15 Film: Better Late than Never (1983) David Niven's last film. It co-stars Maggie Smith and Art Carney ●

11.45 The Spinners at York: And their highly seasonable setting is the Victorian street at the Castle Museum. Ends at 12.15.

BBC 2

2.00 Nobody Minded the Rain: Impressions of Coronation Day. Another chance to see this hugely enjoyable, kaleidoscopic picture of what it was like to be alive (and a royalist) in Britain on June 2, 1953. The pomp and ceremony in Westminster Abbey was only half the excitement. The rest was to be found in the streets. Memories of the great day from, among others, Lord Ramsey (then Bishop of Durham), Lord Eccles (then Minister of Works), and Lady Rayne (one of the Queen's maids of honour) (r).

3.00 The Book Game: Fun and games with a literary slant, involving Robert Robinson (as chairman), Anthony Burgess, *Germaine Greer*, Susan Hill and Adam Mars-Jones. The readings are taken care of by Freddie Jones. Another game tomorrow at 4.30.

3.30 The Great Palace: The Story of Parliament. A repeat screening of last Thursday's instalment (the last film in the series of eight) about the "strangers" at the Palace of Westminster – the 2,000 non-MPs who work there. Written by Christopher Jones, and narrated by Anthony Quayle who, despite the magnificence surrounding him, and the weight of history that presses down on the story of Westminster, has never sounded over-awed by any of it (r).

4.20 Henry's Cat: a Bob Godfrey and Stan Hayward cartoon.

4.25 Film: Meet Me in St Louis (1944) Judy Garland and The Trolley Song. ●

6.15 The Natural World: Winter Days. Remarkable wildlife film, photographed by prize-winning cameraman Hugh Miles. See thousands of geese flying in from the Arctic. See how the ptarmigan stays alive though suffering from hypthermia. The strategies for winter survival are limitless.

7.05 News: the reader is Jan Leeming.

7.15 Cinderella: Rossini's two-act opera La Cenerentola. Recorded at this year's Glyndebourne Festival opera season, and starring Kathleen Kuhlmann as Angelina (we know her as Cinders). The young English tenor Laurence Dale is the Prince. The two step-sisters (not Ugly, as in the panto) are played by Marta Taddie and Laura Zannini. Others in the cast: Claudio Desderi (Don Magnifico), Alberti Rinaldi (Dandini) and Roderick Kennedy (Alidoro). Donato Renzetti conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

9.50 The Queen: In case you missed Her Majesty on BBC 1 at 3.00 or if you are keen to listen to what she had to say for a second time, here, again, is the Christmas Day message to the Commonwealth – this time, with subtitles and with a sign language interpretation for the hard of hearing.

10.05 The Bob Monkhouse Show: And the special guest is Norman Wisdom. Others in the visitors' seats will include the Russian-American comedian Yakov Smirnoff. Music from Bertice Reading and the Harry Stoneham Band.

11.00 Film: The Marx Brothers in Duck Soup (1933*) And it would be difficult to find a more rioutous way to bring Christmas Day to an end (at 12.10 am). ●

CHANNEL 4

10.30 Christmas Oratorio: Bach's superb work – six cantatas – is performed in the Cloister Church of Wauldhausen in Austria, on original period instruments. The conductor: Nikolaus Harnoncourt. With soloists Peter Schreier (tenor), Robert Holl (bass) and members of the Tolzer Boys Choir, with the Concentus Musicus of Vienna.

1.15 Film: The Gang's All Here (1943). Hollywood musical, with Busby Berkeley routines. With Alice Faye, James Ellison and Carmen Miranda ●

3.10 Skywhales: Short, animated film, featuring a species of primitive hunters (green, snouty creatures called Perleians) who inhabit a mass of vegetation suspended in the sky. In pedal-driven sky-boats, they hunt sky-whales. We learn of the close relationship that exists between hunter and hunted. The dialogue is in a specially invented language, and the music is by Dirk Higgins.

3.25 Fragile Earth: How Alaska's flora and fauna have evolved to cope with the territory's extreme conditions. Eight months every year the land is locked in the icy grip of winter. It is the final film in what has been a remarkable natural history series and it is called Alyeska.

4.25 Film: Monsieur Hulot's Holiday (1953*) Jacques Tati causes chaos in a seaside resort in Brittany ●

6.00 The Queen: The message to the Commonwealth. There are subtitles for people with hearing difficulties.

6.15 Twice Nightly: One hour of parodies from the Barron Knights. They perform many of their hits, including Swindon Cowboy, Any Old Iron, Grandfather's Clock and M.A.S.H.

7.15 News Headlines. And weather prospects for Boxing Day. Followed by: **Father's Day Christmas Special:** Domestic comedy starring John Alderton as Dad. The children (Katie Alderton, Zac Nicholson and Dominique Barnes) decide that, this Christmas, they ought to go without festive trappings such as cards, trees, presents and turkey. And in a rush of charitable feelings, they invite a very deserving guest to the house on the big day.

7.50 Struggle: The capitalist system in the non-existent borough of Southam (with its socialist-led council) is tottering on the edge of destruction. Just one vote could decide its fate.

8.25 Film: The King of Comedy (1982) Rapid appearance on the small screen of Martin Scorsese's acid comedy, with Jerry Lewis and Robert de Niro ●

10.25 Tadada: Peter Brook's Paris Cabaret. The opera singers from Mr Brook's recently screened Carmen let their hair down and join the rest of Brook's Bouffes du Nord theatre company in Paris in a programme of cabaret songs in English and French.

11.10 Peace on Earth: Words, music and paintings – all related to the birthplace of Christ. Choirs from all over the world assemble in the Manger Square in Jerusalem to celebrate Christmas. Narrated by Dame Flora Robson, with readings by Laurence Olivier; 12.10 Closedown.

Laughing: Lennard Pearce, David Jason and Nicholas Lyndhurst have fun in Only Fools and Horses (BBC1, 9.35 pm)

TV-am

7.00 Rub-a-Dub-Tub Christmas Day Special: with Bonnie Langford, Michele Dotrice, Edward Woodward and Alan Dart.

8.00 Christmas with TV-am: A Thought for Christmas, from Cardinal Hume; and Chris Tarrant at the Queen Mary Hospital for Children, in Carshalton, Surrey.

9.00 Roland's Winter Wonderland: Roland Rat in a special Christmas Day programme.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 The Night the Animals Talked: An animated parable of the Nativity, seen through the eyes of the animals. Music and lyrics by Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne (r). **9.50 The Fraggles are Coming:** trailer for new puppet series.

9.55 Messengers to Earth: Musical fantasy (music by Lou Lewis) set in a celestial "ops" room where angels are preparing for Christ's birth. Recorded at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Crediton, Devon (r).

10.20 Christmas Morning Worship: from St Molua's Church, Belfast. The sermon is given by the Rector, the Rev Edgar Hamilton.

11.20 The Magic Planet: Ice-skating spectacular about an astronaut who lands on the planet Aleph and falls in love with its queen.

12.15 Film: The Capture of Grizzly Adams (1981). Made-for-TV alfresco drama, with Dan Haggerty as the man hiding out in the forest to escape a false murder charge who now has to risk being captured because his daughter needs him. With Kim Darby, Noah Beery and Keenan Wynn.

2.00 The Royal Year: An ITN compilation of highlights from the Queen's and Duke of Edinburgh's visits to the Caribbean, the US, Kenya, India and Bangladesh. Plus the Prince and Princess's of Wales's tours of Australia, New Zealand and Canada. The reporter: Anthony Carthew.

3.00 The Queen: the message to the Commonwealth.

3.15 Film: Superman (1978). The American comic-strip comes spectacularly to life. With Christopher Reeve ●

5.35 Bullseye Christmas Special: Darts mixed with general knowledge, all in aid of charity. The man in charge: Jim Bowen. Plus even more familiar faces, like Kenneth Kendall's and Anne Diamond's.

6.20 News from ITN.

6.30 A Royal Concert of Carols: The Prince and Princess of Wales listen to carols sung by a hospital choir. Songs and piano playing from Marti Webb and Peter Donohoe.

7.15 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right: The Rothwells from Capelles, Guernsey, take on the Isaacs from Clapton, east London.

7.45 Jimmy Tarbuck's Christmas All Stars: ITV's Christmas Night entertainment highlight – a non-stop music and laughter show with a line-up including Bruce Forsyth, Mike Yarwood, Cannon and Ball, Michael Barrymore and Shakin' Stevens. Plus a 'Game for a Laugh' special and, from the US by satellite, Andy Williams, Robert Wagner and Stefanie Powers (the Harts), The Temptations and The Four Tops.

9.10 Film: Revenge of the Pink Panther (1978). Peter Sellers as the anarchic inspector Clouseau ●

11.00 News from ITN.

11.10 The King's Christmas: Festive renderings from the King's Singers. The setting – Harewood House in Yorkshire – is as much a treat for the eye as the singing is for the ear. Traditional carols and, predictably, funny contributions, too.

11.40 The Untouchables: Crime drama, with Eliot Ness (Robert Stack) out to catch a crooked ex-policeman who is using an amusement park as headquarters for a drug-smuggling operation (r).

12.25 A Different Christmas: What the day has been like for the patients at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. Gillian Reynolds goes there and chats with Jimmy Savile. Followed by Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALES 12.15am News of Wales headlines and weather; Close. SCOTLAND 9.50-10.10am 'It's Christmas!'. 10.10-10.20 Christmas Morning. 6.15-7.15 Carols for Christmas Day. 12.15am Scottish news summary and weather; Close. NORTHERN IRELAND 12.20am Close. ENGLAND 12.20am Close.

SCOTTISH As London except: 9.25am Moderator's Christmas message. 9.35-9.50 The Sound of Christmas. 11.40pm Late Call. 11.45 House Calls. 12.15am Closedown.

TSW As London except: 9.50am-9.55 Look and See 11.40pm Streets of San Francisco 12.35am Postscript 12.40 Closedown

CENTRAL As London except: 11.40pm A Different Christmas. 11.50 Closedown.

S4C Starts 10.30am Xmas Oratorio. 1.15pm Gang's All Here. 3.10 Skywhales. 3.20 Tua Bethlehem. 3.50 Queen's Christmas Message. 4.00 Buster Keaton: The General. 5.30 Fo A Fe. 6.00 Wil Cwac Cwac. 6.05 Universal Studios. 6.55 Newyddion. 7.00 Pobol Y Cwm. 7.30 Rhaglen Hywel Ggwyniryn. 8.20 Henllys Fawr. 9.10 Deuwch Ac Addolwyn. 9.40 Twice Knightly. 10.40 Father's Day Christmas Special. 11.10 Peace on Earth. 12.00 Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 11.40pm Newhart: No Room at the Inn. 12.10am Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 11.40pm The A-Team (George Peppard) 12.35am A Different Christmas, followed by Closedown

CHANNEL As London except: 9.50am-9.55 Look and See. 11.40pm The Streets of San Francisco. 12.35am Closedown.

TVS As London except: 11.40pm Film: Hunted (Edward Woodward, June Ritchie). Mad gunman announces that in 10 minutes he intends to fire into a lunchtime crowd. 12.25am Company, followed by Closedown.

GRANADA As London except: 11.40pm The Streets of San Francisco. 12.30 A Different Christmas. 12.45 Closedown.

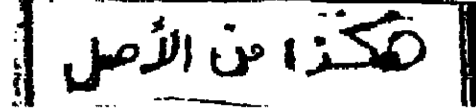
YORKSHIRE As London except: 11.40pm Benson. 12.10am A Different Christmas: With Jimmy Savile. 12.20 Closedown.

HTV As London except: 11.40pm Journey To The Unknown 12.40am Carol for Christmas: Bristol Cathedral Choir 12.45 Weather and Closedown.
HTV WALES: No variation

TYNE TEES 9.25am Morning Glory 9.30-9.50 Night the Animals Talked 11.40pm Joani Loves Chachi 12.10am Message for Christmas, Closedown

GRAMPIAN As London except: 9.25am Moderator's Christmas Message. 9.35-9.50 Sounds of Children. 11.40pm Reflections. 11.45 Julio Iglesias in the Holy Land. 12.35am Closedown.

BORDER As London except: 9.25am Moderator's Christmas Message. 9.35-9.50 Sound of Children. 11.40pm A Different Christmas. 11.50 Closedown.



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Boxing Day

Edited by Peter Dean

BBC 1

9.00 **The New Adventures of Flash Gordon.** Today the indestructible hero faces the Revolt of the Power Men.

9.20 **The Natural World: Snowy, Chilly, Motley and Me.** Oxford zoologist John Paling with a puppy and two kittens. Mr Paling discovers that our domestic pets really are wild animals, thinly disguised (r).

10.10 **Cartoons:** Bugs Bunny in Jack Wabbit and the Beanstalk – a Warner Brothers cartoon; and Dragoncastle, an award-winning fairytale film made by 13-year old Paul Mason and 11-year old Becky Mason.

10.30 **Play School,** presented by Elizabeth Millbank and Brian Jameson. The story is the Cobweb Christmas Tree, by Shirley Climo.

10.55 **Pigeon Street.** A See-Saw programme for the very young (r).

11.10 **Strange Companions.** Part one of a two-episode adventure story about a young runaway who stows aboard a light aircraft.

12.00 **Look Back with Noakes** along the coastal paths of Devon and Cornwall in summer (r).

12.30 **News headlines and weather.**

12.35 **The Racoons and Lost Star.** A musical cartoon about the nasty Cyril Sneer and his plot to capture the Earth.

1.20 **Cracked Ice.** A Warner Brothers cartoon.

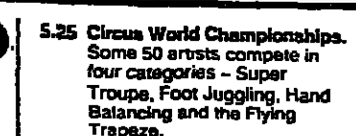
1.30 **The Good Life.** Christmas doesn't go according to plan for either the Goods or the Leadbetters (r).

2.00 **Film: Bridge on the River Kwai** (1957) David Lean's classic observation of men under stress. Starring Alec Guinness. ●

4.35 **The Keith Harris Christmas Party.** Fun and games and music from guests Shakin' Stevens and Stu Francis.

5.10 **News with Richard Whitmore.**

5.15 **Final Score.** David Icke with a classified check on the day's sports results.



5.25 **Circus World Championships.** Some 50 artists compete in four categories – Super Troupe, Foot Juggling, Hand Balancing and the Flying Trapeze.

6.25 **The Paul Daniels Magic Christmas Show.** Magic and comedy from the host; illusions from The Pendragons; acrobatics from the Five Star Endresz Family; and Professor Al Cartny with his mechanical man.

7.15 **The Kenny Everett Television Show.** A special edition of the eccentric Everett show in which even the dubious gags are done in the best possible taste.

7.50 **Film: Rocky** (1976) Boxing drama starring Sylvester Stallone. ●

9.45 **Lenny Henry presents 'Laughing Matter'.** A selection of classic comedy clips.

10.25 **News with Richard Whitmore.**

10.35 **Kiri and Friends.** Kiri Te Kanawa introduces a programme of music and dance from Mozart to the Beatles. With baritone Thomas Allen; Wayne Sleep and Alessandra Ferri in a Beatles ballet; Marisa Robels (harp); Richard Van Allen (baritone); and the 14-year old Greek pianist Dimitris Sgouros. The BBC Symphony Orchestra is conducted by Robin Stapleton.

11.35 **The Treasure of Abbot Thomas.** A ghost yarn adapted by John Bowen from the story by M. R. James. Michael Bryant stars as the Rev Justin Somerton, an Oxford don who becomes involved in a search for lost treasure. The clue to the hoard's whereabouts is contained in a cryptic message on a stained-glass window but Somerton refuses to take heed of the dire consequences promised if the treasure is disturbed. The music is composed by Geoffrey Burgon who was later responsible for the successful themes for Tinker Tailor and Brideshead Revisited. Directed by Lawrence Gordon Clark (r).

12.15 **Weather.**



Shipshape: All aboard for an hour with Morecambe and Wise and party time with the crew from Minder (Both ITV)

BBC 2

12.45 **Racing from Wincanton.** Julian Wilson introduces coverage of the Daily Mirror Conditional Jockeys Championship Handicap Chase (1.00); the Coral Golden Hurdle (1.35); and the Better Bet Coral Steeplechase (2.05). The commentators are Peter O'Sullevan and Richard Pitman. Also included is Julian Wilson's review of the last flat racing season and his choice of Racehorse of the Year.

2.20 **Joseph and Child.** Did Joseph really play the part of mid-wife at Christ's birth? Arthur Dooley's sculpture shows Joseph holding the child he has helped deliver (r).

2.35 **The Tale of Beatrix Potter,** by John Hawkesworth, based on the biographies by Margaret Lane. A lavish and entertaining biographical play about the life of the lonely woman whose book characters have brought joy to millions of children. With Penelope Wilton as Beatrix Potter and Michael Hordern as narrator (r).

4.30 **The Book Game.** The third of four conversations about books and writers with Anthony Burgess, Germaine Greer, Susan Hill and Adam Mars-Jones.

5.00 **Shakespeare in Perspective.** Russell Davies with a preview of tomorrow night's production of Shakespeare's comedy, Two Gentlemen of Verona, on BBC2.

5.25 **Film: Mame** (1974). Musical story of a nephew's life with an outrageous aunt. Starring Lucille Ball and Robert Preston ●.

7.15 **A Life in the Theatre: Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies.** The nonagenarian actress talks about her career, which covered 70 years, and of her eventful life.

8.05 **News summary with subtitles.**

8.10 **Romeo and Juliet.** Prokofiev's ballet performed by the Ballet of La Scala, Milan, with Carla Fracci and Rudolf Nureyev dancing the title roles and Dame Margot Fonteyn as Lady Capulet. The choreography is by Rudolf Nureyev. Introduced by John Drummond.

10.25 **Film: The Ipcress File** (1965). Len Deighton's spy thriller starring Michael Caine, Nigel Green and Guy Dolman. ● Ends at 12.15.

CHANNEL 4

10.35 **Animated Fables.** Antoinette Moses, director of the Cambridge Animation Festival, introduces three films. From Czechoslovakia, The King and the Goblin; from the United States, How the Zebra Came to Be; and the Canadian-made Cinderella Penguin

11.05 **Film: A Swarm in May** (1983) A young chorister restores an ancient church tradition. Starring Oliver Hicks●

12.30 **Film: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer** (1938) John Weaver's version of the classic Mark Twain story. With Tommy Kelly and Jackie Moran●

2.00 **A Rough Stage.** A documentary, narrated by Maureen Lipman, that examines the development of entertainment for the masses. With personal recollections and examples of grass roots entertainment past and present the programme illustrates, among other things, what it was like to be a touring child dancer at the turn of the century and to sit in the rowdiest section of a 1912 music hall audience.

3.30 **Christmas Cartoon Carnival** presented by Ray Allen.

4.00 **Charlie Chaplin – The Little Tramp.** Joel Grey introduces clips from Charlie Chaplin's earliest films including his first, the 1914-made Kid Auto Races in Venice

4.45 **The Sleeping Beauty.** The Kirov Ballet's 200th anniversary production of Tchaikovsky's work, based on Perrault's fairy tale. The cast includes three of the Soviet Union's best dancers – Inna Kolpakova as Aurora, Sergie Berezhoi as Prince Desire and Lubov Kunakova as the Lilac Fairy. With the orchestra of the Leningrad Theatre of Opera and Ballet, conducted by Victor Fedotor

6.55 **News headlines and weather** followed by **Home.** Do we know enough about the cultural background of the non-British who have made our islands their home?

8.00 **From Mao to Mozart.** The story of Isaac Stern's 1979 tour of China

9.30 **Film: Renaldo and Clara** (1977). A record of the 1975 and 1976 east coast of the United States tour by Bob Dylan●

1.45 **Closedown**

TV-am

7.30 **The Adventures of Mole.** A special story for children.

8.00 **TV-am's Boxing Day Show** includes the 50 minute interview, first shown on Australian television, with Michael Parkinson talking to Princess Anne.

9.00 **Roland's Winter Wonderland.** Roland and Kevin are on the slopes in the Swiss alps awaiting their first ski-ing lesson. Will they understand their polite and painstaking instructor?

ITV/LONDON

9.25 **The Sooty Show.** With Matthew Corbett and his puppets, Sooty, Sweep and Soo, in their own version of Red Riding Hood (r).

9.45 **The Talking Parcel.** An animated version of Gerald Durrell's story about a girl who finds a talking parcel on a bench. Among the voices are those of Freddie Jones, Mollie Sugden, Roy Kinnear and Windsor Davies.

10.25 **Film: The Bugs Bunny/Road Runner Movie** (1979). Five shorts featuring the indestructible rabbit and one with the equally resilient desert bird.

12.00 **Take Over.** Three teams, led by Jenny Lee-Wright, Richard O'Sullivan and Isla St Clair, test their skills at various hazardous exploits with the help of simulators. Brough Scott is the man who puts them in the driving seat.

1.00 **News.**

1.05 **Racing from Kempton.** Brough Scott introduces the Food Brokers-Armour Novices' Hurdle (1.10); the Ladbroke Christmas Hurdle (1.40); and the King George VI Chase (2.15). The commentators are John Oaksey and Graham Goode.

2.30 **Film: The Scarlet Pimpernel** (1982) starring Anthony Andrews and Jane Seymour. Colourful and well-acted version of Baroness Orczy's story of the seemingly dilettante Englishman who is on a visit to Paris at the time when French aristocrats' heads were the victims of the guillotine almost daily. His outwardly foppish exterior hides his real purpose – to save as many of the beleaguered aristocrats as possible. A strong supporting cast includes Ian McKellan as the wicked Citizen Chauvelin, the scourge of the aristocracy. Directed by Clive Donner.

5.15 **News and sport.**

5.30 **Give Us a Clue.** Celebrity mime game between two teams. Una Stubbs, Jane Asher, Jilly Cooper and Tracey Ullman against Lionel Blair, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Bob Geldof and Russell Grant.

6.00 **Coronation Street.** Rita Fairclough visits the lady who might be able to clear up the mystery surrounding husband Len's death.

6.30 **Film: The Spy Who Loved Me** (1977). James Bond battles with a man who wants to rule an underwater kingdom. Starring Roger Moore●

8.45 **Eric and Ernie's Christmas Show.** A Morecambe and Wise spectacular with an extensive guest list that includes Nigel Hawthorne, Felicity Kendall, Nanette Newman and Peter Skellern.

9.45 **Minder Christmas Bonus.** Excerpts from the best scenes of previous series of the popular comedy. With Dennis Waterman, George Cole and Glynn Edwards – mine host at the Winchester Club. The programme is set in the club where Terry is trying to make the Christmas lights, supplied by Arthur, work. Meanwhile, Arthur is receiving some stick from 'er indoors who is stranded at Heathrow, trying to leave the country on a holiday with a ticket supplied by Arthur.

10.45 **News.**

10.50 **Des O'Connor Tonight.** Music, song and laughter with Jimmy Tarbuck, Marti Caine and Charlie Callas.

12.00 **Film: The Fortune** (1974) starring Jack Nicholson and Warren Beatty as a pair of inept con-men●

1.35 **Night Thoughts** from Max Sinclair, assistant director, Christian Centre, Hildenborough Hall, Kent.

Ducking: Orville and Keith Harris are hosts at a party (4.35pm)

BBC 1 Wales: 11.10am-12.00 Rugby Union: highlights of Saturday's game between Bridgend and Cardiff. 12.15am-12.20 News and weather. Northern Ireland: 12.15am-12.20 News and weather.

S4C Starts 12.35 pm Nodi. 12.50 Wee Bit Cheeky. 1.45 Film: Monsieur Hulot's Holiday (Jacques Tati). 3.15 Fragile Earth. 4.10 Dwylo I Fyny. 4.40 Film: King of Comedy (Robert De Niro). 6.30 Ser. 7.00 Newyddion Saith. 7.15 Hapnodolig. 8.00 Gaucho. 10.00 Rygbi: Caerdydd v Pontypridd. 10.30 Tadada. 11.10 It's Got to be Funny Hasn't It. 12.10 am Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 9.25am-9.30 Day Ahead. 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning (Carol Drinkwater). 12.30am News at Bedtime, Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

ANGLIA As London except: 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning (Carol Drinkwater). 12.30 am On the Feast of Stephen followed by Closedown.

YORKSHIRE 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning. 12.30am Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning. 12.30am Closedown.

GRANADA 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning. 12.30am Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning (Carol Drinkwater). 12.30 am Christian Christmas. 12.35 Closedown.

TSW As London except: 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning. 12.30 am Postscript. 12.36 Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except: 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected. 12.30am Weather and Closedown.

SCOTTISH As London except: 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning. 12.30am Late Call. 12.35 Closedown.

HTV As London except: 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning (Carol Drinkwater). 12.30am A Carol for Christmas: Bristol Cathedral Choir. 12.35 Weather and Closedown. HTV WALES: No variation.

TVS As London except: 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning (Carol Drinkwater). 12.30am Company, followed by Closedown.

BORDER As London except: 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning (Carol Drinkwater). 12.30am Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning. 12.30am Reflections. 12.35 Closedown.



Spooking: Cherie Lunghi (left) and Carol Drinkwater in Death in the Morning, a tale of the unexpected (Anglia)

Holiday Radio

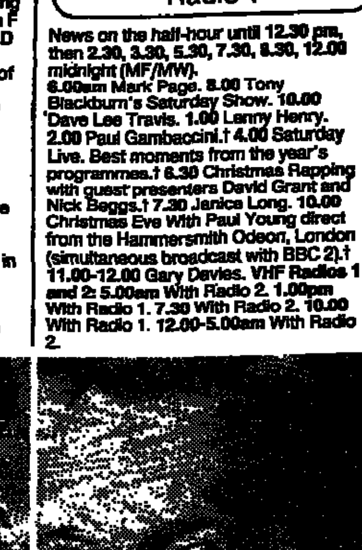
TODAY

Radio 4

6.25 Shipping Forecast.
6.30 News; Farming Today.
6.50 In Perspective with Rosemary Hartill 6.55 Weather; Travel; Programme News.
7.00 News 7.10 Today's Papers.
7.15 On Your Farm.
7.50 In Perspective. 7.55 Weather; Travel; Programme News.
8.00 News. 8.10 Today's Papers.
8.15 Smash of the Day. Hancock's Half-Hour starring Tony Hancock in 'The Christmas Hand-Out'. There is another Hancock's Half-Hour on Boxing Day.
8.48 Breakaway. Holiday, travel, leisure.
9.00 News. Then back to Breakaway.
9.50 News Stand. Review of weekly magazines.
10.05 The Week in Westminster. With Robert Carvel.
10.30 Daily Service.†
10.45 Pick of the Week. Programme highlights.†
11.35 From Our Own Correspondent. BBC correspondents report from around the world.
12.00 News; News Quiz of the Year (part 1) Simon Hoggart and his team remembers major and minor events of 1983.†
12.27 The First Half Century. Alistair Cooke takes a personal view of social life in Britain and the USA from 1900-1950, as reflected in popular music of the day (4) A Time of Peace (1918-23).†12.55 Weather; Programme News.
1.00 News.
1.10 Any Questions? 1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 News.
2.03 Afternoon Theatre. "Mistress Mine" by Judith Gick. Anna Barry as Anne Hathaway, Shakespeare's wife, in a radio version of the stage monologue, first performed at the 1981 Edinburgh Festival.
3.00 A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols: from King's College, Cambridge (the programme which, for millions of people, means that the spiritual message of Christmas is still coming through loud and clear). The organ scholar is David Briggs, and the director of music, Stephen Cleobury.†
4.30 Does He Take Sugar? Magazine for the disabled.
5.00 Wildlife. Listerers' topics.
5.25 The Mistletoe Bough. Some seasonal verse, prose and songs. With John Darran and Dilys Price. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather; Travel; Programme News.
6.00 News.
6.15 The Winged Boy (s/binaural). A story by Mary Hayley Bell. Dramatized for radio. Music by Max Early. With Kate Binchy and Jill Lidstone.
7.25 70 Marvellous Years. Dame Angela Marvell celebrates her 70th birthday and talks to Peter France.
7.55 The Wexford Carols. Sean MacReamoinn explores the origins of the Wexford carols.
8.25 Saturday-Night Theatre: "The Holly and the Ivy" Wynyard Browne. Much-loved play, set in a country vicarage on Christmas Eve, 1950, where the family of the Rev Martin Gregory (Stephen Murray) are gathering for the festive season. He is forced to face the fact that his relationship with his family has changed radically. With Nora Nicholson, Jane Knowles and Isobel Black (r). 9.58 Weather.
10.00 News.
10.15 The Countryside at Christmas. Wynford Vaughan-Thomas reflects on the festive season with some country tales. With Oxfordshire hand bells.
11.00 News: Old Christmas. James Munson introduces Washington Irving's observations of England and its characters. Peter Mainker plays the writer.
11.30 Midnight Mass from St John the Baptist Church, Chipping Barnet.
12.15 Shipping Forecast. ENGLAND VHF as above except: 6.25-6.30am Weather; Travel. 1.55-2.00 Programme News.

Radio 3

7.55 Weather. 8.00 News.
8.05 Aubade: Cornelius (overture: The Barber of Baghdad), Widor (Cantabile), Milhaud (Suite: Scaramouche: with Alfons and Aloys Kontarsky, pianos), and Respighi (Suite: Rossiniana)†.
9.00 News.
9.05 Record Review: Joan Chissell on Schumann's Kinderscenen; an interview with John Eliot Gardiner, and a choral records review by Nicholas Kenyon. With Paul Vaughan†.
10.15 Stereo Release: Marc-Antoine Charpentier's Oratorio In navitatem: Domini canticum; and W G Whittaker's Psalm 139†.
11.15 Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra: Mozart's Symph No 39 and, at 11.55, Bruckner's Symph No 9†. Interval reading at 11.50.
1.00 News.
1.05 Ravel and Haydn: Orlando String Quartet play Ravel's Quartet in F major, and Haydn's Quartet in D major, Op 76, No 5†.
2.00 Ernest Ansermet: Recordings of his conducting of works by Rossini, arr Respighi (overture and tarantella, La boutique fantasque), Stravinsky (Divertimento: Le baiser de la fee), Honegger (A Christmas Cantata), Bizet (Symph in C), Ravel (Arias of the Princess, the Child and Arithmetic) and Rimsky-Korsakov (Suite: Christmas Eve). Some records in mono.
4.00 Brahms Violin and Viola Sonatas: with Zukerman and Neikrug. The Op 78 and the Op 120, No 1†



Greats: Tony Hancock (Radio 4) and Fred Astaire (Radio 2)

5.00 Jazz Record Requests: introduced by Peter Clayton.
5.45 Critics' Forum: In the chair: Natalie Wheen. The panel: Matthew Hoffman, J W Lambert and Bryan Robertson. Topics include Peter Tegel's play Men's Group, (on Radio 3) and Cinderella at the National Theatre.
6.35 Leonora: the two-act opera by Ferninand Paër. Sung in Italian. With the Milan Symphony Orch of Italian Radio. Heading the cast: Ursula Koszut (Leonora), Ezio di Cesare, Tullio Pane, Renzo Casellato, Krisztina Laki, Giancarlo Luccardi and Giorgio Tadeo. Act 1.
7.50 Some Random Merton Memories: Sir Ralph Richardson reads from George Saintsbury's scrapbooks.
8.05 Leonora: act two of the opera.
9.15 The Sleeping Beauty: A performance of the whole of the music from the Tchaikovsky ballet, played by the Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by John Lanchbery. On records†.
12.00 News. Until 12.03am.

Radio 2

News on the hour (except 2.00, 4.00, 8.00, 9.00 pm) headlines 5.30, 6.30, 7.30 am (MF/MW).
5.00am George Ferguson. The Saturday Early Show.† 7.30 David Jacobs.† 9.30 Sounds of the 60s with Keith Fordyce.† 10.30 Album Time with Peter Clayton.† 11.30 Wohs Ttereve Ynnek Eht (The Kenny Everett Show!).† 1.00pm Cliff Michelmore. 3.00 Paul Burnett Christmas Special. 5.00 Fred Astaire – 50 years in Hollywood. 6.00 Pick of the Sporting Year. Tony Admason recalls the personalities, unexpected moments, and achievements of the sporting year. 7.00 Beat the Record. Keith Fordyce tests your musical knowledge. 7.30 A Festival of Christmas Music recorded at the De Montfort Hall, Leicester, with the Leicester Philharmonic Choir and the BBC Concert Orchestra.† 9.30 Big Band Special. The BBC Radio Big Band.† 10.00 The Grumbleweeds' Christmas Party. 11.00 Christmas at the Dome. Christmas activities break out at The Dome, Brighton. 12.05am Pete Murray's Late Show.† 2.00-5.00 Bill Rennells presents You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

News on the half-hour until 12.30 pm, then 2.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 8.30, 12.00 midnight (MF/MW).
6.00am Mark Page. 8.00 Tony Blackburn's Saturday Show. 10.00 Dave Lee Travis. 1.00 Lenny Henry. 2.00 Paul Gambaccini.† 4.00 Saturday Live. Best moments from the year's programmes.† 6.30 Christmas Rapping with guest presenters David Grant and Nick Beggs.† 7.30 Janice Long. 10.00 Christmas Eve With Paul Young direct from the Hammersmith Odeon, London (simultaneous broadcast with BBC 2).† 11.00-12.00 Gary Davies. VHF Radios 1 and 2: 5.00am With Radio 2. 1.00pm With Radio 1. 7.30 With Radio 2. 10.00 With Radio 1. 12.00-5.00am With Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 News About Britain. 7.15 From the Weeklies. 7.30 Classical Record Review. 7.45 Network UK. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 Flanders and Swann. 8.30 Quote, Unquote. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 A Chapel to the World. 10.15 What's New. 10.30 Just A Minute. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 About Britain. 12pm Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Anything Goes. 12.45 A Lift in the Rain. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Commentary. 1.15 Network UK. 1.30 Motive for Murder. 2.00 London Concert Tradition. 2.30 A Chapel to the World. 3.00 News Summary. 3.02 WS Joins R4. 4.30 Hancock's Half Hour. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Baker's Half Dozen. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Commentary. 8.15 Good Books. 9.15 What's New. 9.30 Hancock's Half Hour. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The Mistletoe Bough. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Flanders and Swann. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Letterbox. 11.30 A Chapel to the World. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News About Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Commentary. 2.15 The Gift. 2.30 Half Hour. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 From Our Own Correspondent. 3.30 Just A Minute. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.25 Interlude. 4.30 The English Air. 5.45 Letter from America. All times in GMT

CHRISTMAS DAY

Radio 4

6.25 Shipping Forecast.
6.30 Morning Has Broken: Music for Christmas day.†6.50 Nativity Reading. 6.55 Weather: Travel;
7.00 News.
7.05 Peter Barkworth presents words and music for Christmas morning. 7.50 Nativity Reading. 7.55 Weather: Travel; Programme News. 8.00 News.
8.05 Sunday. Clive James takes a seasonal look at the Christmas Church. 8.55 Weather: Travel;
9.00 News.
9.05 Christmas Bells. Robert Hudson introduces a collection of Christmas bells.
9.30 The Queen. A message for the Commonwealth.
9.35 Morning Service. Christmas Day Eucharist from Salisbury Cathedral.
10.30 The Archers. Omnibus edition.
11.30 Christmas Briers. Richard Briers with songs and comedy.
1.00 The Queen: Another chance to hear her message
1.05 News.
1.10 News Review of the Year.
2.00 The Countryside at Christmas. Wynford Vaughan-Thomas reflects on the festive season (r)
2.45 Afternoon Theatre 'Christmas At Dingley Dell' adapted from The Pickwick Papers and Christmas Stories of Charles Dickens by Constance Cox.
4.15 A Birthday at Bethlehem, by Brain Sirley.
4.45 An Enchantment of Roses with Kenneth Mathews.
5.00 News Quiz of the Year. Part 2.†
5.25 Christmas 43. Dr Christopher Andrew looks back at wartime radio from 40 years ago. 5.50 Shipping Forecast.
6.00 News.
6.05 Crisis at Christmas. Appeal by Lord Soper on behalf of Crisis for homeless people.
6.10 Helpston Cracked Pippins Northamptonshire Christmas. A visit back in time to the village where the poet John Clare was born.
7.00 News; The Magic Carpet. Seven-part dramatisaton by David Beatty of the story of the R101 airship. (5).
7.30 All Our Christmasses. As celebrated through the ages in life, literature, humour and song with Stephen Murray. (r).
8.15 Christmas Isn't What It Was with Glyn Worsnip.
9.00 A Cuckoo in the Nest. An adaptation from the novel and farce by Ben Travers. Starring Joan Hickson, Freddie James, Ian Lavender, Phoebe Nicholls and Margaret Tyzack.
10.30 News.
10.35 Behind the Chalet School. A salute to the Chalet School girls.
10.50 The Festival of Peace. The Bishop of Middlesborough, the Rt Rev Augustine Harris, concludes his reflections on some of the themes of the Christmas festival.
11.05 A People's Carol. Traditional Christmas carols from South Yorkshire.
11.35 The First Half Century. Alistair Cooke takes a personal view of social life in Britain and the USA from 1900-1950, as reflected in popular music of the day (4)
12.00 News. 12.10 Weather.

Radio 3

7.55 Weather. 8.00 News.
8.05 The English Baroque: Arne's Thou soft-flowing Avon; J. C. Bach's Piano Concerto, Op 7, No 5; Boyce Anthems: I have surely built thee an house; and Handel's Concerto Grosso in B flat, Op 6, No 7.†
9.00 News.
9.05 Your Christmas Choice: Record requests. Berlioz's overture The Flight into Egypt (Childhood of Christ), Edmund Pascha's Christmas Mass in F. Daquin's Noel en dialogue. Schoenberg's Christmas Music, and Hely-Hutchinson's Carol Symphony.†
10.30 Christmas Music: with the BBC Singers and Margret Phillips (organ). (What sweeter music), Mathias (A babe is born), Poulenc's Four Christmas Motets, Hadley's I sing of a maiden, Holst's This have I Done, arr Rutter (Noel nouvelet), and Dupre's Variations on Noel nouvelet for organ solo.†
11.20 Chicago Symphony Orchestra: with Alfred Brendel, piano. Mozart's Piano Conc No 9 and, at 12.00, Mozart's Piano Conc No 12.† Interval reading at 11.55.
1.00 Schubert's Octet: The Nash Ensemble play the Octet in F major, D 803.†
2.00 Spanish Songs and Arias: A 1983 Salzburg Festival recording. With Pilar Lorengar (soprano) and Placido Domingo (tenor). Part one.
2.35 A Closer Look: Paul Webster reads three poems by Michael Drayton, and Vernon Scannell examines them.
2.55 Spanish Songs and Arias: part two. Works by Moreno-Torroba, Gimenez, Pablo Luna and Manuel Fernandez Caballero.†
3.35 John Lill: recital. We hear Beethoven's Sonata in F, Op 54; Chopin's Polonaise Fantaisie in A flat; and Liszt's Sonata in B minor.†
4.35 Haydn: Sinfonia Concertante in B flat for violin, cello, oboe and bassoon; and Symphony No 49 (La Passione). With the BBC SO. †
5.30 A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols: A recording of yesterday's service from King's College, Chapel, Cambridge. †
7.00 Sir Thomas More: Radio version by Penny Gold of a play presumed to have been penned by William Shakespeare and others. Music specially written by Philip Lane. Starring Ian McKellen as Sir Thomas More. Also starring Cyril Luckham (as Shrewsbury), Jean Trend (Lady More), David Gooderson (Surrey), Carole Boyd (Doll Williamson) and John Webb (Catesby.) †
9.00 Brahms's Symphonies: A performance of the Symphony No 3, given at this year's Salzburg Festival by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Herbert von Karajan. The Symphony No 1 can be heard at 9.55. †
9.35 Light in the Darkness: A Christmas Day sermon by the Most Rev and Rt Hon Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury.
9.55 Brahms's Symphonies: Symphony No 1 in C minor. From the Salzburgh Festival 1983. †
10.45 Bach: Glenn Gould, piano, plays the Partita No 5 in G, BWV 829; and the Toccata in C minor, BWV 911. †
11.15 News. Until 11.18.

Radio 2

News on the hour (except 10.00am, 12.00, 3.00, 5.00 and 8.00pm) (MF/MW)
5.00am Don Maclean and George Ferguson at The Children's Hospital, Birmingham†. 7.30 Good Morning Christmas. Bishop Bill Westwood joins the boys of St Paul's Cathedral Choir School†. 9.00 David Jacobs with Melodies for You, including 10.00 The Queen speaks to the Commonwealth. 11.00 Desmond Carrington's Rainbow Connection†. 1.00pm The Sleeping Beauty. A traditional pantomime for Christmas. With Terry Wogan, Jimmy Young, June Whitfield and Kenneth Connort. 2.00 Ed Stewart with Forces' Favourites. Music, dedications, requests linking servicemen and women with the folks back home†. 4.00 Sing Something Simple. With The Cliff Adams Singers†. 4.30 The Fosdyke Saga (last in series) starring Stephanie Turner, Philip Lowrie and David Threlfall. 4.45 Charlie Chester with your Christmas Soapbox†. 6.00 Christmas At The Dome. Christmas activities at The Dome, Brighton. 7.00 Christmas Night with Dr Evadne Hinge and Dame Hilda Bracket. 7.30 Grand Hotel with Max Jaffa and the Palm Court Orchestra. 8.30 Sunday Half-Hour from Fisherwick Presbyterian Church, Belfast. 9.00 Your Hundred Best Tunes with Alan Keith. 10.00 Rostal and Schaefer entertain you at two pianos, with Julian Lloyd Webber. 10.30 Mantovani Magic with the BBC Radio Orchestra. 11.00 Pete Murray's Late Show (stereo from midnight). 2.00-5.00am Bill Rennells with You and the Night and the Music†.

Radio 1

News 6.30, 8.30, 10.30am, 12.30, 2.30, 5.00, 7.30, 10.00pm and 12.00 midnight (MF/MW)
6.00am Mark Page. 8.00 Tony Blackburn's Christmas Show form Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, London, including 9.30-9.35 The Queen speaks to the Commonwealth. 10.30 Peter Powell. 1.00pm Mike Read's Christmas Dinner. Mike plays host to his DJ colleagues. 3.00 Steve Wright. 5.00 Top 40 with Tommy Vance†. 7.00 Anne Nightingale. Three hour bumper edition including your Christmas requests†. 10.00-12.00 The Adrian Juste Christmas Morning Show (Even though it's Christmas night!)†.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 News About Britain. 7.15 From Our Own Correspondent. 7.30 A Closer Look. 7.50 Recording of the Week. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 The Pleasure's Yours. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Look Ahead. 9.15 The Gift. 9.30 The Queen. 9.35 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 Letter From London. 12.00 Play of the Week. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Commentary. 1.15 Good Books. 1.30 Christmas Day Service. 2.00 The Sandi Jones Request Show. 2.30 Caught in the Act. 3.00 The Queen. 3.15 Concert Hall. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 The Mistle Bough. 4.45 Letter from America. 5.00 World News. 5.07 Just A Minute. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Commentary. 8.15 Letterbox. 9.15 The Pleasure's Yours. 10.00 World News. 10.09 A Knocking in the Skull. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 The Queen. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Letter from America. 11.30 Caught in the Act. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News About Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Christmas Service. 1.00 Benny Green's Christmas Dickens. 1.45 Breakthrough. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Commentary. 2.15 Good Books. 2.30 Music Now. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 Something to Show You. 3.30 Anything Goes. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.25 Interlude. 4.30 The Painter of Signs. 5.45 At Home with... All times in GMT

BOXING DAY

Radio 4

6.25 Shipping Forecast.
6.30 News; Daybreak with Charles Colvile. 6.55, 8.00 News.
8.05 Smash of the Day. Hancock's Half-Hour starring Tony Hancock in 'Christmas – East Cheam style'.(r)
8.30 Quote . . . Unquote. (r)
9.00 News.
9.05 Desert Island Discs Lord Tonypandy talks to Roy Plomley
10.00 News; Travel; Points of Departure (new series). In the first of five programmes, Christopher Matthew begins a fresh collection of travellers' tales.
10.15 Crotal And White. In the sequel to Crowdie and Cream, Finlay J. Macdonald continues the story of a growing crofting community.
10.30 Morning Story: 'Mandy Kiss Mommy' by Lance Salway. Read by Sandra Clark.
10.45 Joy to the World (1) The Message of the Angel.†
11.00 News; Lorna Doone by R. D. Blackmore. Dramatised for radio in 5 parts. Part one.
12.00 News; Christmas 43. Dr Christopher Andrew looks back at wartime radio. (r)
12.30 Just a Minute with Kenneth Williams. 12.55 Weather;
1.00 News.
1.05 The Sinking of the 'Scharnhorst'. 26 December 1943. A documentary telling the story of the last epic sea battle in the history of naval warfare. Written by Wendy Lloyd.
1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping
2.00 Afternoon Theatre 'Trelawny', by Aubrey Woods, George Rowell and Julian Slade. This musical adaption of Arthur Wing Pinero's Trelawny of the Wells has music and lyrics by Julian Slade. The cast is headed by Gary Bond, Joyce Carey, Dilys Laye and Nigel Stock.†
4.00 Down Your Way. Brian Johnston looks back on a year of journeying
4.40 Story Time: 'The Wind in the Willows' by Kenneth Grahame (3). Read by Bernard Cribbins.
5.00 News; The Magic Carpet. Seven-part dramatisation by David Beaty of the story of the R101 airship (5).
5.30 Cat World.
5.35 Elkins in Israel. Michael Elkins talks about his own course through the history of modern Israel (1) Sunlight and Shadow.
6.00 The Six O'clock News.
6.15 The Best of Maigret. A selection of plays from the series starring Simenon's detective. Tonight: Maigret Goes Home. With Maurice Denham. (r)
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 If a Wise Man Came. Two teams of schoolchildren compete in imagining what a Wise Man would say if he arrived in 1983.
7.45 Prefaces of Shakespeare: The Two Gentlemen of Verona. With Geoffrey Hutchins.
8.00 The Monday Play. 'The Warden', by Anthony Trollope. Adapted by Roy Jenkins. With Timothy Bateson, Alan Bennett, Jenny Seagrove, John Rye and Freddie Jones (as Trollope).
10.00 News.
10.05 Week Ending.†
10.30 It's the Handsome Cads, Don'tcher Know! with Derek Beard and David Timson.
11.00 A Book At Bedtime: 'The Poison Belt' by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
11.15 Ambridge Encore. Highlights of the Ambridge Christmas Revue of 1982. †
12.00 News. 12.10 Weather.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert: Telemann's overture in C, Mozart's Violin Conc No 3 in G, K 216; Stravinsky's Eight Instrumental Miniatures, for chamber orchestra.†
8.00 News.
8.05 Morning Concert: part two. Holst's Suite in F, Op 28, No 2, for military band; Byrd's The Woods so Wild; Francesco da Milano's Fantasia in C minor; Francis Cutting's Packington's Pounds; Delius's Brigg Fair, and Grainger's Lincolnshire Posy.†
9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer: Ottorino Respighi. The Symphonic Poem Fountains of Rome; Ancient Airs and Dances for the Lute (Suite No 1), and the Quartetto Dorico.†
10.00 Fauré Piano Music: Bernard Roberts plays the Barcarolle No 13 in C major, and the Nine Preludes, Op 103.†
10.30 Arnold Bax Centenary: the Five Fantasies on Polish Christmas Carols: Kinder-Katechismus (Wagner), and Bax's The Bard of the Dimbovitza.†
11.30 Amadeus String Trio: Mozart's String Trio movement in G, K ANH 66. Schubert's String Trio movement in B flat, D 471; and Beethoven's String Trio in G, Op 9, No 1.†
12.15 Brahm's Symphonies: The Berlin Phil, under Karajan, play the No 4.†
1.00 News.
1.05 Brahm's Symphonies: The No 2, played by the Berlin Phil, under Karajan.†
1.50 Schubert: Benjamin Luxon (baritone) with David Willison (piano) in a performance of Schwanengesang, D 957.†
3.00 New Records: Sullivan's overture in Di ballo; Mozart's Traurigkeit ward mir zum Lose (Lucia Popp). Bach's Sonata in A for flute and harpsichord, BWV 1032; Haydn's String Quartet in D minor, Op 76 No 2; Mozart's Mi tradi quell'alma ingrata (Lucia Popp), Ponchielli's Il convengno; and Mussorgsky, orch Ashkenazy (Pictures from an Exhibition).†
4.55 News.
5.00 Orchestras on their Home Ground: The Symphony of the Air, the Philharmonic Orch of Mexico, the Boston Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic in works by Vila-Lobos, Chavez, Ives (Three Places in New England), Copland (Appalachian Spring ballet suite) and Gershwin (Rhapsody in Blue).†
6.35 Music for Organ: Richard Coulson, in St Michael's and All Angels Church, Croydon,
7.15 Fidelio: Beethoven's two-act opera. Lorin Maazel conducts the Vienna Phil Orch and State Opera Chorus, with Eva Marton as Leonore, Tom Krause, Theo Adam, James King, Lillian Watson, Thomas Moser and Aage Haugland. Part of the 1983 Salzburg Festival. Act one.†
8.30 A Sentence for Tyranny: George Gomori, Lecturer in Slavonic Studies at Cambridge University, reflects on the life and times of the Hungarian poet Gyula Illyes.
9.00 Fidelio: the second and final act.†
10.10 The Sunbather: Vivienne Dixon reads the short story by Brian McCabe.
10.30 Jazz Today: Charles Fox looks back over the past year.†
11.15 News, Until 11.18.

Radio 2

5.00am Ray Moore.† 8.00 Terry Wogan.† 10.00 David Hamilton's Music Show.† 12.00 The Beatles at Christmas. The voices of the favourite four and their past Christmas hit records.† 1.00 The Grumbleweeds' Christmas Party.† 2.00 Sport on 2: Football: Comprehensive coverage, incl from 3.55 second-half commentary. Racing from Kempton (2.15) The King George VI Chase. 5.00 Sports Report, incl 5.00 Classified Football Results. 5.30 Rugby round-up. 5.50 Pools news and results. 6.00 John Dunn. 7.30 Alan Dell with Dance Band Days and Big Band Era.† 8.30 Humphrey Lyttelton with The Best of Jazz.† 9.30 Star Sound. Nick Jackson with songs, scenes and music from the movies. 10.00 Cinema Scrapbook with Chris Kelly. Soundtrack memories of a year in film (4) 1954. 10.35 Stuart Hall with a late-night entertainment (stereo from midnight). 1.00am The Sleeping Beauty. A pantomime for Christmastime. 2.00-5.00 Charles Nove

Radio 1

6.00am Adrian John. 8.00 Mike Read. 10.30 Mike Smith with 1983 – The Year That Was. 12.30 Newsbeat. 12.35 Tony Blackburn's Boxing Day Party direct from Cardiff Castle. 2.00 Jonathan King with Radio Entertainment USA.† 4.00 Janice Long† including 5.30-5.35 Newsbeat. 6.30 Steve Wright's Films of the Year.† 7.30-12.00 The Rhythm Pals' Boxing Day Bash.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 News About Britain 7.15 Shrinklits. 7.30 Sarah and Company. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 Viennese Nights. 8.30 Anything Goes. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Look Ahead. 9.15 Waveguide. 9.25 Good Books. 9.40 Interlude. 9.45 Music Now. 10.15 Short Story. 10.30 Hancock's Half Hour. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 Anna of the Five Towns. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Quote, Unquote. 12.45 On the Feast of Stephen 1.00 World News. 1.09 Commentary. 1.15 Shrinklits. 1.30 Country Style. 1.45 Benny Green's Christmas Dickens. 2.30 Musical Milestones. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Sports Special. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Sports Special. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Sports Special. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Commentary. 8.15 On the Feast of Stephen. 9.15 Anna of the Five Towns. 9.30 Rock Salad. 10.00 World News. 10.09 Motive for Murder. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 The Cambridge Buskers. 11.30 Quote, Unquote. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News About Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Time Remembered. 1.00 Waveguide. 1.10 Paperback Choice. 1.15 To Fly Where the Sun Never Sets. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Sing a Song of Christmas. 2.30 Sporting Highlights of 1983. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 Shrinklits. 3.30 John Peel. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Breakthrough. 5.45 A Lift in the Rain. (All times in GMT)

FILM QUIZ

This is a one-liner, not a headline . . .

He wasn't James Bond in those days, either. "I'm an accountant, not Houdini", is a line from *Frightened City*, an early Sean Connery film and it provides a fine example of a screenwriting tradition that stretches back to the early days of talkies: the outlandish negative comparison.

This device, which we might as well refer to as the ONC, has many functions. It advances the story, letting the audience know who's who ("I'm a clairvoyant, not a pork butcher" – Claude Rains in *The Clairvoyant*, 1934) and where's where ("This is Algiers, not Paris" – *Pépé le Moko*, 1936); and it enlivens the dialogue by rounding off the information colourfully, disguising from the audience the fact that they've been fed a fact ("This is a rehearsal, not a rest cure" – *Forty-Second Street*, 1933).

The above are the earliest examples of the ONC that I have encountered . . . and over 40 years later we find it still going strong as Ian Hendry gets *Damien – Omen 2* off to a solid start by telling Leo McKern, "I'm an archaeologist, not a religious fanatic". The two of them are buried alive almost immediately afterwards, suggesting that, like a pair of Shakespearean lords, they have discharged their duty to the plot and are therefore superfluous.

But at least they have had their moment. Another important use of the ONC is to give an actor with a minor role a more interesting line to get his or her teeth into – especially if their scene is with the star of the picture. Instead of being just a boring woman character, how much stronger and more rewarding to be able to announce to Jack Palance in *The Big Knife*: that "I'm a woman, not a diplomat". To make Sylvester Stallone stand and listen in *Paradise Alley* as you describe his brother as "a fighter, not a broken toaster". To wash your hands of, yet remain superior to, the disintegrating Tyrone Power in *Nightmare Alley* with the classic 1940s put-down "I'm a psychologist, not a judge".

My files don't reveal whether this last actor was used again in *The Greatest Show on Earth*: James Stewart, as the clown on the run, asks the cop who arrests him what his fate will be . . . and is told "I'm a policeman, not a judge". If it *was* the same actor, it's nice to think that his handling of the ONC in *Nightmare Alley* might have landed him the job. All this may seem like the small change of movies, but it can be a career highlight to the bit-player.

Not that the stars don't have to make the odd ONC themselves, though if the "O" is not Outlandish but merely Ordinary the result can be embarrassing. For example, what chance does poor George Segal (not long after being told in *Fun with Dick and Jane* that he is an aerospace executive, (not a real estate salesman) stand with "I'm an inspector, not an engineer" in *Roller-coaster*? Or George C. Scott ("I'm a king, not a chemist") in *Beauty and the Beast*? Burt Lancaster in *The Train* fares much

'I run a hotel, not a madhouse'

better with a couple of crackers: "We're working on a locomotive, not a pocket-watch" and "I'm a railroad man, not a prophet", which are almost trumped by Jeanne Moreau's "I run a hotel, not a madhouse".

The Train is a story of the French Resistance, and the negative comparison has long been used as a way of expressing foreign characteristics in Hollywood and British films, such as Gallic nonchalance ("This is a ship, monsieur, not a taxi" – *Journey into Fear*, 1942) and Nazi sarcasm ("This is a labour camp, not a kindergarten" – the Boulting Brothers' *Pastor Hall*, 1940). This convention combines with the need for juicy star dialogue to produce three lovely comparisons, sending *The Train* right to the top of my ONC chart.

Also up there is the British B-feature *Checkpoint*, which boasts "You're a businessman, Michael, not a gangster" and "I'm a driver not a time-keeper", both within the space of a minute. And while it is true that one may spot the odd distinguished contribution, like Graham Greene's "I'm a painter, not a soldier" in *The Comedians*, it is in the B-feature that the negative comparison is at its most outlandish, or to put it another way "This is a morgue, not a public art gallery" *(Plague of the Zombies)*. Like Sean Connery, Stratford Johns made several such films early in his career. He, however, *wasn't* an accountant, but a detective, in *2-Way Alibi*; he was also "a policeman, not an Egyptologist" in *Cairo*.

Accountants, detectives, policemen ... these, together with doctors and lawyers, are the ONC professions, and it is a dull writer indeed who is content merely to pair them off to achieve an effect (eg "I'm a doctor, not a policeman" – *The Incredible Melting Man*). As with so many other things, the ONC reached its lowest ebb at the end of the 1950s, with "I'm a doctor, not a lawyer" (*Compulsion*) and "I'm a lawyer, not a doctor" (*The Trials of Oscar Wilde*) appearing virtually together.

So let's play a game. Among the hundred or more films on television this Christmas, there are bound to be several dozen examples of the Outlandish Negative Comparison. See how many you can spot, then award them marks: the highest going to the most extreme, taking into account the occupation of the character or nature of the place, the comparison made, the eminence of the actor or actress making it, and the importance of the film.

As a warm-up, try and match the following ONCs:

a) "I'm an orderly, not a psychiatrist"
b) "This is a restaurant, not a gymnasium"
c) "I'm a hooker, not an information bureau"

to these recent films:

1) *Shoot the Moon*
2) *Heatwave*
3) *An American Werewolf in London*

Unfortunately, there won't be any prizes for competitors. I'm sorry, but I'm an occasional contributor to *The Times*, not Father Christmas.

Andrew Nickolds

Answers: 1b, 2c, 3a.

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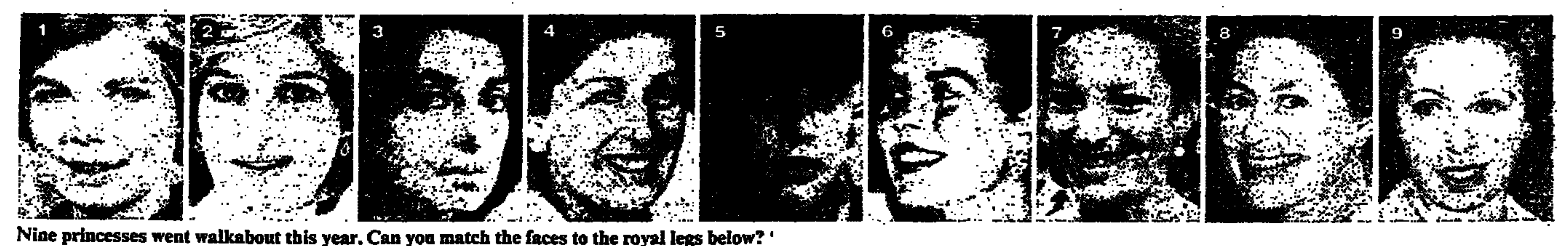


THE TIMES Saturday

24-30 DECEMBER 1983 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

A stocking full of puzzles, games, competitions and a prize jumbo crossword

Quiz of the year 1983



Nine princesses went walkabout this year. Can you match the faces to the royal legs below?

Seven pictures that enlivened the news in 1983. Can you remember what, or who, they were?

From the polls to Pole Pole, it has been a year to remember. But **Robin Young** wonders how much you've forgotten . . .

WEATHER OR NOT

(1) Which winter was the coldest in living memory:
a: 1980-1981
b: 1981-1982
c: 1982-1983?

(2) Which was the wettest June since 1879:
a: 1981
b: 1982
c: 1983?

(3) Which was the wettest April since 1940:
a: 1981
b: 1982
c: 1983?

(4) July 1983 was the hottest since:
a: 1982
b: 1976
c: 1975
d: 1659?

(5) On how many days in July 1983 were temperatures in England and Wales over 80°F (27°C)?
a: 26
b: 16
c: 10
d: 6?

(6) For nine weeks in 1983 Britain had 2½ times the normal amount of rain. Did this wet period start in mid:
a: March
b: April
c: May?

(7) Traffic on the M40 in Buckinghamshire was disrupted on May 21, 1983. Was it by:
a: molten tarmac in a temperature of 76°F
b: three-inch hailstones
c: ⅓ of an inch of rain
d: 3 inches of snow?

(8) One day in 1983 was the coldest ever recorded on Earth. Was it:
a: January 10
b: April 1
c: July 21
d: December 14?

(9) Which of these is not thought to have influenced the weather in 1983:
a: El Nino
b: El Chichon
c: La Camorra
d: Le Mistral?

(10) What defended London against the weather for the first time on February 2?

MYSTERY HEADLINES

Can you remember the stories?

(1) **Use of royal scarlet reclaimed**
(2) **Kelpers bitter over visit**
(3) **Faust sung by pop star too much for Moscow**
(4) **No cream sauce for Mitterrand**
(5) **Massacre of the innocents**
(6) **Tories 'resign in droves'**
(7) **Head's wife puts cat among the pigeons**
(8) **Boat race brings best of British to Manhattan**
(9) **Desert troops forbidden to wear medal**
(10) **Woman who knew spy stood in local poll**
(11) **Sierra campaign in trouble**
(12) **Siberian mammoth goes to the dogs**

ANIMALS

How did "a rat come to the aid of a sinking ship"?
Whose death by ...ball in Toronto led ...ution?
...ned to rock
What unprecedented ... was shared by ...vn, Captain ..., Wayward Lad, Silver Beck and Ashley ...use?
...isaster was caused by Henry, a Jack Russell terrier?

(6) What world record was claimed for Zeya, a Siberian tigress?
(7) In what guise did David Agulnik astonish Princess Michael of Kent?
(8) What did Pole Pole mean?
(9) What have the stone curlew and the purple emperor to do with defence policy?
(10) What animal was reproved by a London magistrate?
(11) What 90 per cent ruination was effected by *Andricus quercus calicis*?
(12) What was variously said to be a puma, a mongrel, and a lurcher?

WHO SAID ABOUT WHAT?

(1) "I left home last week in very unbecoming circumstances."
(2) "The worst national disaster for 100 years."
(3) "No one gives a fig for the Ten Commandments any more but unhappily society disregards them at its peril."
(4) "What is wrong with the world today is greed, immorality and depravity."
(5) "It's because I'm so very ordinary really".
(6) "Nobody believed in the story of a little brown man dressed in a sheet carrying a bean pole."
(7) "The archive, in fact, is not only a collection of documents which can be individually tested: it coheres as a whole".
(8) "The Parkinsonism was really the clinching point."
(9) "This is a military operation. It would need three armoured tanks, a couple of helicopters with machine guns and about 600 men from 2 Para to stop us."
(10) "A little English phenomenon of no special interest."

MURDERS

(1) Identify the instrument of death:
a: a Harvey Wallbanger; a Mickey Finn; Pernod on the rocks; a bottle of Champagne while making love.
b: a cummerbund; a cravat; a punk necklace of razor blades and swastikas; a collection of neckties.
c: Dr Scholl's sandals; Doc Marten boots; stiletto-heeled winklepickers; exploding wellies.
d: a bottle of ruby port; a ruby kiss; a ruby ring; a "Jack Ruby was Innocent" placard.
e: a Christmas tree; a Christmas cracker; a Christmas card; a Christmas present.

(2) Can you identify the positions held by these victims, and where they died?
a: Benigno Aquino
b: Lee Bum Suk
c: Issam Sartawi
d: Edgar Graham

(3) How many people convicted of homicide are currently free in England and Wales?
(4) How many people were convicted for the murder of Aldo Moro?
(5) Who said *a propos* a murder case: "I really could not see why there was such a big hoo-ha about it"?
(6) With regard to whose murder was the score Hofdemel 60 votes, Sussmayer 39 votes, Salieri 28 votes? Explain.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

Who said:

(1) "I just cannot stand hot air."
(2) "I find so much to emulate in Winston."
(3) "I am not prepared to stagger from compromise to compromise."
(4) "I will continue to be the essence of sweet reasonableness."
(5) "There is no definition of the poverty line."
(6) "I think I could handle a landslide."
(7) "I had a caesarean myself. I know about it."
(8) "I cannot accept responsibility for those who strike themselves out of a job."
(9) "I have got one or two single gloves at home which I kept in the hope of finding the other half of the pair again. Now I shall be able to send them to the company. As you prosper yourself you ought to do something for others."
(10) "It reminds me of the old song, 'Maggie May'."

GOLD-DIGGERS OF 1983

(1) How did Diane Bilanelli get about £53m?
(2) What did Dr Sally ride?
(3) Who said: "It will be port wine next time."
(4) Miss World 1975 became Bruce Forsyth's third wife. Can you name her?
(5) Where did Sabine Meyer cause disharmony?
(6) Who said: "I was not aware that political expediency was sufficient grounds for an abortion under the 1967 Act"?
(7) Who went to Newnham College, Cambridge, for three years to become "a more marketable commodity"?
(8) What did Stephanie Grant do with her four A-levels?
(9) Who was reported to have won two distinctions at school, one for best-kept hamster and one for "services to others"?
(10) Who said: "I gave up hockey as soon as possible and I didn't like netball because I used to get wolf whistles because of my short skirts"?

POLITICS

(1) Who called whom "the plutonium blonde"?
(2) Who was described as "a constitutional enormity"?
(3) Who likened the Communist Party to the Society of Friends as "self-effacing people who did a lot to keep the flag flying"?
(4) Who considered whom incapable of knocking the skin off a rice pudding?
(5) Who was described as "a dangerous and unstable figure with a node on the rising Uranus"?
(6) How did Esmond Bevan distinguish himself politically on February 24, 1983?
(7) Who recommended that in the event of nuclear war farmers should drive their cows into deep lane ditches and throw tarpaulins over them?
(8) Who thought whom "a good socialist with many admirable qualities – it is a great pity these are marred by his macho-heterosexism"?
(9) Who was sacked as a columnist by *Titbits*?
(10) Who considered a Ford Sierra 1.6 "a smashing car"?

DIED IN 1983

Who. . .

(1) . . .was beneficiary in 132 wills and left bequests to 20 women?
(2) . . .was also know as Ronald Wycherley?
(3) . . .choked to death on a bottle cap?
(4) . . .bequeathed the Holy Shroud of Turin to the Vatican?
(5) . . .had been described as "a fat man whose gift for public suffering had enlisted the sympathy of a sentimental people"?
(6) . . .conked out?
(7) . . .was brother of Canada's first Canadian-born Governor-General?
(8) . . .died of MND, also known as Lou Gemrig's disease?
(9) . . .came to fame via a girl's eye sliced in half by a razor and a dead donkey on a grand piano?
(10) . . .loved cats and tried to kill his father?
(11) . . .collapsed at the despatch box?
(12) . . .was "the greatest foreign novelist since Joseph Conrad who has paid us the compliment of writing in the English tongue"?
(13) . . .was twice International Reporter of the Year?

Answers on page 24

Nine crowning glories. Can you tell to whom they belong?

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

Adudadu abroad on Greenland's icy mountain

Old meets new in the majestic wilderness where the conquering heroes are the dogs

Mr Kelly Nicholaissen is a genial and optimistic Dane who would probably thrive as a salesman of sand to Arabs or submarines to the Swiss. His current speciality is winter holidays in Greenland. He waves a large, thickly mitted fist at the stupendous view from his hotel window across the rooftops of Angmagssalik in east Greenland and cheerfully declares that spring has arrived. The days are lengthening as March progresses, the view is often clear across the fjord and there are fewer sudden, sniping storms from the north.

But to a European eye, Kelly's springtime looks suspiciously like a winter that is reluctant to let go its hold. The mountains are thickly quilted with snow, and the late-afternoon temperatures turn breath to frost. A huddle of vessels anchored incongruously in the ice mark the point where land and sea meet. But for anyone seeking tranquillity who can appreciate the motionless power of an iceberg and dramatic landscapes wrought by extreme cold, Greenland is the place.

Our party of six was there to slide across this impressive wilderness in the traditional Greenland way – on dog-drawn sledges. It is a land little changed since the first explorers arrived; the world's biggest island with a central ice cap 10,000ft thick ringed by mountains and a wildly indented coast. A population the size of Perth's is spread across a country 52 times the size of Denmark, which includes Greenland within its kingdom although home rule was granted in May 1979. It is little touched by tourism but is making an effort through enthusiasts like Kelly to attract visitors to its stark scenery and the distinctive way of life in the small hunting communities on the east Greenland coast.

"Coast" hardly describes this particular meeting between land and sea. From the small, twin-engined aircraft flying high between Reykjavik in Iceland and Kulusuk we looked down on the Denmark Strait, its surface packed with ice. At first the cover appeared thin and unconsolidated, then it became dotted with squadrons of icebergs that had fractured away from the polar zone. Inshore the ice formed impenetrable armour against a land where green is a conspicuously absent colour.

At Kulusuk the aircraft touched down beneath a high cliff upon which stand the domes that are a strand of Dewline, the American radar system employed to detect any Russian mischief passing overhead. A Greenlandair helicopter clattered the party across cold spurs of empty land and deeply frozen fiords to Angmagssalik.

The hotel is firmly anchored to its hilltop, shutters at the ready. Inside it was warm and comfortably appointed in cheerful Scandinavian style and there was a fine view of the village and a cobweb of sledge tracks running to infinity across the ice. From here it would be a step back in time, with all the movement dog-powered.

Kelly pocketed his cordless telephone. He has been "negotiating" with the local weather station. Tomorrow the conditions would be good, he said, the dogs would be ready at nine. A dog's life in the pejorative sense must have been coined for the Eskimo breed. They sleep in the open through the fierce winter, insulated by their thick, shaggy coats and turning to motionless lumps on the ground as the snow builds over them.

The weathermen kept their bargain and next day was brittle clear. Ten sledges, the largest number the village had seen for years, assembled on the fiord and as time approached for a mass start the dogs grew more and more excited. The Greenland sledge has been developed over the centuries into a tough, functional vehicle, each one pulled by a team of six or eight dogs. The passenger languishes comfortably on a skin rug while the driver rides between the steering struts or walks when the going gets steep, urging on the dogs with Greenland oaths and an occasional crack of the whip.

Sledges are still in use but modern Greenlanders have a taste for the fast, motorized skidoos that scream and bounce across the landscape at four times the best speed of a dog-drawn sledge. When we were overtaken by a trio of these rowdy vehicles, I felt as if I was travelling up the M1 in a sedan chair. A sledge is certainly more majestic. The dogs scamper purposefully along on the flat and tumble headlong downhill as the sledge threatens to overtake the team, forcing the driver to put all his weight on the elasticated metal claw at the stern that bites into the snow and slows progress.

A half-day introductory dash across the fiord enabled visitors to get their sledge legs, followed by a day tour to Ikateq where the village livelihood is from hunting bears and seals. This journey included a sledge descent of a frozen waterfall. Nervous souls may get off and walk.

The next two days covered a tour to Tinitegilag, another hunting community on Sermilik Fiord, the birthplace of great icebergs that break away from the glaciers of the ice cap and make their ponderous way out to sea.

The sledge convoy was greeted outside the village by a large crowd of children, noisy, friendly and eager to investigate the visitors. They live in a cluster of sturdy wooden houses, dotted around a hillside overlooking the frozen fiord. Their hardy and fragile life is based on a mainstay of seal hunting, but this is now threatened by conservation-minded folk who are campaigning against the use of seal skins for coats and for the trinket market.

It is inconceivable to the villagers that their hunting activities could endanger the seal colonies, but without the income from the skins they fear their own community might be endangered. There are other more sinister threats to the traditions in this isolated corner of the world. Urban values have crept in and alcoholism has become a serious problem despite price levels that amount to a prohibition. Heavy drinking in a community where rifles are a commonplace has also produced an alarmingly high murder rate.

But this is not at all an undercurrent in Tinitegilag, where the village veterans plead for a return to the old values. They say there is strong political pressure now to turn the tide on an era represented by videos, smart fashion, rowdy skidoos and cordless telephones.





Dogged determination: Huskies haul the sledges across the waste

We spent the night in a hut that was completely buried in snow. Kelly and his helpers dug their way down to the door and soon the chimney, protruding above the snow surface, was smoking busily and the invisible hut became snug.

Also visiting was a party from the British Schools Exploring Society known particularly to the locals as *adudadus*. The term is entirely polite and dates back to the time when Gino Watkins, a very well brought up British explorer, devoted a lot of time to the Greenland coast. Wherever he went he introduced himself to the locals with a polite "How do you do?" which they turned into a quaint noun that has stuck ever since.

Ronald Faux



Details of the 10-day holiday are available from Twickenham Travel, 84 Hampton Road, Twickenham, Middlesex (01-898 9681). The £998-package includes all flights, bed and breakfast in Reykjavik and all meals and accommodation in Greenland. Thermal boots and underwear are recommended.

Fashionable forays along the Riviera

Tobias Smollett, Scottish physician and writer, let the cat out of the bag when he published *Travels Through France and Italy* in 1766. Three years earlier, heartbroken after his only daughter's death from consumption, this Dumbartonshire gentleman left England to spend 10 months in Nice where he alternately praised and damned the locals and their habits and appalled them by bathing in the sea. His journal tickled the fancy of the English aristocracy who set out to pass the winter in what promised to be a temperate climate amid beauty and history.

Smollett offered a perfect deal. No holiday brochure could have done better. What Englishman could fail to be enticed by his description of a view from Nice ramparts? "The plain presents nothing but gardens, full of green trees, loaded with oranges, lemons, citrons, and bergamots, which make a delightful appearance; all sorts of sallading, and pot-herbs, in perfection; and plats of roses, carnations, ranunculas, anemonies, and daffodils, blowing in full glory, with such beauty, vigour, and perfume, as no flower in England ever exhibited."

And of the climate: "Many people, even of condition, at Nice, have no fire in their chambers, during the whole winter." And for sights: "There are considerable monuments of antiquity in the neighbourhood", which he then described at length.

Tourism had arrived on the Riviera. And it has grown ever since. At first the magnet was the winter climate. Throughout the nineteenth century and up until the First World War, this was the season when European rulers and nobility gathered in Nice to see and be seen. Fashionableness increased with the construction of the Promenade des Anglais by the British inhabitants in 1822 and accessibility with the arrival of the railway in 1863. Later, painters came, attracted by the strong light and colours. Renoir, Bonnard, Picasso, Chagall; many more settled there and Matisse lived mainly in Nice for over 30 years. Their legacy is the glorious museums of their works that pepper the coastal and hilltop villages.

In 1922, a certain Mr and Mrs Murphy, a wealthy American couple who were the inspiration for the characters of the Divers in Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*, were staying at Cole Porter's villa at Cap d'Antibes. They did the unthinkable: bathed and lounged on the sand in the full sun. Young society followed their lead and the tables were turned. Where previously business was slack and prices low during the hot season, hotel charges and villa rents now soared in the summer when the bright young things and their hangers-on arrived. And it has been the same ever since. In the winter, the Promenade and gaming tables see action only from elderly travellers escaping from the northern cold.

Tobias Smollett can have had little idea that his journal would be the springboard for two centuries of British tourism. And Augustus Hare, another literary visitor to these parts, might be equally surprised at how little the villages and hillsides have suffered since his forays into the countryside during a winter sojourn at Menton.

This is especially true of the area between Nice and the concrete 468-acre principality of Monaco. The lower corniche road wiggles between the steep hills and the azure Mediterranean that gave the area its name. Instead of the ubiquitous French camping sites and hotels that litter most of the Midi, stately, old and elegant, modern villas line the road and dots the hillsides, their walls festooned with crimson and purple bougainvillaea.

Neither King Leopold II of Belgium, the Duke of Connaught nor Somerset Maugham changed the little fishing cove of St-Jean on the isthmus of Cap Ferrat very much. Locals sit over a vin rouge in dimly lit cafés along the narrow streets, a stone's throw from the sumptuous, overfilled Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild. Baroness Ephrussi, a Rothschild by birth and taste, bought Tiepolo ceilings, eighteenth-century Parisian panelling, Florentine doors and anything else that came her way. She continued to amass booty while the villa was being constructed, so confusing her numerous architects that on completion it was found that not one had remembered to put in a staircase.

Villefranche lies further along the coast. Tunnelled and stepped alleys smelling of garlic, tomatoes and *herbes de Provence* lead down between red and ochre houses to a harbour lined with restaurants and cafés. Their menus tempt passers-by with fixed price gourmet meals for £6-£8, or with *La Belle Bouillabaise* – an exotic fish stew, complicated to prepare and a marathon to eat.

Up in the hills, the medieval villages are hardly changed. And even the remotest boasts a family-run restaurant serving good, inexpensive Provencal food – more fish soup, hare, lamb and lemon tart. Eze, behind La Turbie, is the nearest and so a bit too popular. But from the Chateau Eza at the top of the village the views are breathtaking. Tiny balconies jut out from the castle wall over a sheer drop of 1,300ft to the sea.



Pablo Picasso: Settled

Further into the hills, up narrow zig-zagging roads that sometimes take a short cut through a cliff, are the more isolated villages of Peillon and Peille. And, perched above Menton, Ste Agnes claims to be the highest village in the area. Looking across the valley to the lush mountains, their slopes glowing with flowering broom in June, Smollett's praise is still justified: "The plantations extend to the very tops of the hills, interspersed with villages, castles, churches, and villas. Indeed the whole Riviera is ornamented in the same manner, except in such places as admit of no building nor cultivation."

Louise Nicholson



Villas: Holiday Villas have a wide range of well-equipped villas and apartments along the Côte d'Azur, between La Lavandou and Eze-sur-Mer. They are usually rented by the week, from May 1-Oct 1. Prices vary according to size of villa, place and time of year. A villa that sleeps four at Eze-sur-Mer with sea views, 500m from the beach costs £169 per week May 1-June 11 and Sept 17-Oct 1 and £333 per week between July 11 and Aug 27. Holiday Villas also offer competitive flights to Nice at £115 return, but they do not organize car hire.
Brochures: From Holiday Villas, 850 Brighton Road, Purley, Surrey (01-660 5000).

Bingo! Bango! Bravo! It's Benidorm

Benidorm in October is not a bad place to be. The waves of Wallies, as the travel industry ungratefully calls the summer visitors that provide these stories of wild and fatuous excesses in the town, have receded. Those whom the Spaniards call "the third age", *las personas mayoras*, are trickling in for the late vacation or the long winter stay. *Adios los doscamisados, vivan los desdentados* is the cry.

Evidence of the great occupation lingers in the shop signs and the menus outside the popular bars and restaurants. Twenty years ago the menus were written in Spanish, however internationalized the dishes. "Camarero; what are *croquetas de lobo de mar?*" "Croquettas of sea-wolf, senor. Fishcakes." But there is no time now for such refinements. *Empenads al Duque de Cornwall* and *Biftec bicado al estilo de pastor* are plain cornish pasty and shepherd's pie.

But, as my hosts pointed out with some emphasis, there are dozens of places for those that want them where one can eat good Spanish food. Ask the nearest expatriate.

They took me to La Pergola, a very up-market restaurant on the north end of the waterfront. Its windows look back along the sweep of the bay that brings the millions, the seven kilometres of golden sand of the Playa de Levante, a darker patch representing the village from which the town grew.

In October the days are hot and the evenings balmy. It was seven o'clock when I arrived. I joined early drinkers in the Bar Antwerpen, in time to see a pleasant touch of human kindliness. The four-piece orchestra stuck up the Wedding March. Everyone smiled and applauded. The couple thus honoured exchanged looks of beatific sheepishness and the moment entered their store of good times.

There'd be an orchestra
Bingo! bango!
Playing for us
To dance the tango,
And people would clap
When we arose,
At her sweet face
And my new clothes

A haunting little poem by Scott Fitzgerald which stuck in my head at first reading and has refused to leave it.

In the pace of its development Benidorm resembles the gold rush towns of California and Australia, though its gold pours down from the sky. The difference is that those towns yearned upwards, and built opera houses and theatres for Sarah Bernhardt and Macready and Jenny Lind and Lola Montez to appear in. Benidorm has stuck to its brief: nothing too cerebral. Gorgeous sun and sea by day; at night barbecues, discotheques, nightclubs and restaurants and such other fleshly mischief as is desirable and procurable; to which, in autumn and winter, will succeed bingo, whist drives, old tyme dancing, courses in rug weaving and flower arrangement.



Peace at last: A quiet stroll by the boat harbour in Benidorm

The target of entertainment is the audience reflected by the international top ten television programmes and the place to see this Benidorm in full cry is the Benidorm Palace, an entertainment centre said to have the biggest stage in the world.

Streams and flashes of coloured lights poured over the audience. There were only four players in the band, but thanks to what Churchill called the lights of a perverted science they were making enough noise for 400. The audience sat at little tables drinking the sweet sparkling wine such places sell. Among them, making their way between the tables with halting gait, I saw quite a number of old Brits. The music could not have meant much to them. Perhaps they were waiting for the barebreasted dancers and the accomplished transvestite who would imitate Marilyn Monroe and Edith Piaf.

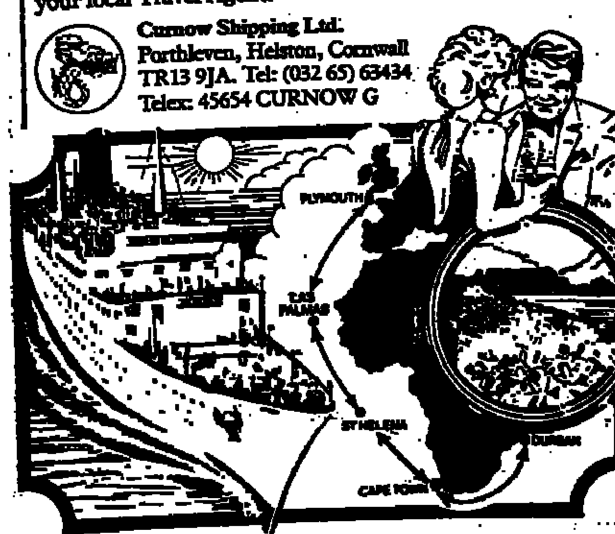
Benidorm is the most popular resort town in the world, according to figures published by the British Marketing Research Bureau. Two and a half million people go there in a year. There are never fewer that 70,000 foreigners in the town, the deputy mayor, my host, said.

Nevertheless the question has begun to loom: Whither Benidorm? Representatives of Arabian oil megamagnates, in town recently seeking undertakings into which they might pour some money, left without investing anything. Their spokesman said that Benidorm had gone as far as it could as a centre of mass tourism. It was time to expand in another direction, catering for a more demanding clientele with a greater purchasing power. Well, that's what the man said.

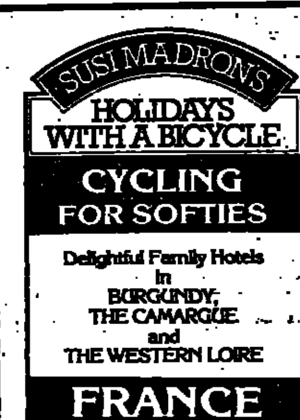
So there may yet be a theatre and opera house, a Benidorm Literary Prize and Festival of the Arts. But not in summer time. Long live Benidorm as it is, I say. May it continue to draw the millions who enjoy it as it is, and would go somewhere else if it did not exist.

Peter Black

Thomson offer 28 nights at Los Ranchos apartments for £115 including flight. The same company has 28 nights half-board in a 3-star hotel for £218.
Viajes Alameda on the Avenida Rincon de Loix is a useful letting agency to call on. Winter rents start at £25 a week behind the front and rise to £35 for one overlooking the sea. Independent flights to Alicante cost £180 for a scheduled flight or about £90 on one of the bargains available. Brittany Ferries (Plymouth, 0752-263388) have a car ferry service from Plymouth to Santander, whence Benidorm is two days' easy driving and one day's hard.
Recommended reading: *Berlitz Travel Guide to the Costa Blanca.*







هكذا من الأصل

VALUES/Beryl Downing with a champagne competition

Present and correct . . . how to play Father Christmas to the famous

If it's really the thought that counts, how good are you at choosing the right gift for the right person – regardless of price? You can test your skill by playing our Christmas guessing game, and if you win you could toast your expertise with champagne. We asked 16 already gifted men and women to tell us what their ideal present would be, given carte blanche. Fact or fantasy, they could choose anything in the world that would give them the most pleasure.

All you have to do is study the brief descriptions of the personalities and their presents and put the two together, having sorted out the clues from the red herrings. If, for instance, you think Leo McKern wants a magic carpet and Shirley Conran would like a trip in a space shuttle you should write 12-G, 9-H and so on.

Answers on postcards, please, to Christmas Values, Room 1 [illegible], The Times, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1, to reach us by January 3.

The senders of the first three correct entries to be opened will each receive half a case of champagne and the three runners-up will each receive two bottles. The wine chosen is Sainsbury's Dry Champagne, which came top in our *Times* blind tasting earlier this month. The judges pronounced it "rich, flowery, full of flavour and character". This is your chance to compare your taste buds with theirs. Please include your name, address and telephone number on your postcard. Winners' names will be published on the Values page on January 7.

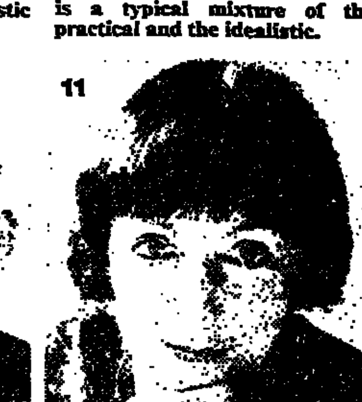

1 Selina Scott, of BBC's *Breakfast Time*, has recently been quoted as dreading becoming an old maid, but her choice should help her to remain fresh and sparkling.


2 Derek Jacobi is captivating audiences (and Sinead Cusack) as Benedick in the RSC's *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Barbican. His is an artistic choice.


3 Glenys Kinnock battles fiercely to keep life as normal as possible for her two children Stephen and Rachel. Her choice is a typical mixture of the practical and the idealistic.

9 Shirley Conran, best-selling author, lives the life of a tax exile who plays Monopoly with real houses. Granting her Christmas wish would be a bit like taking coals to Newcastle.

10 Lord Howard, former chairman of the BBC, lives at Castle Howard, setting for *Brideshead Revisited*. To achieve his Christmas choice, he is going to have to marry its owner.

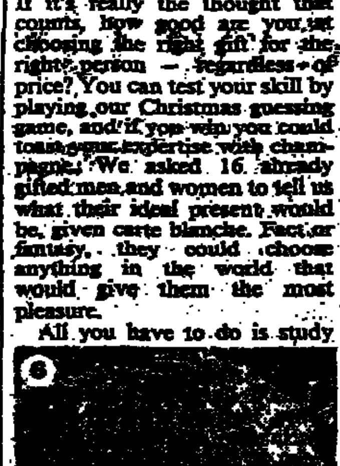

11 Caroline Charles designs the sort of clothes that most women would most like to wear – elegant, easy and in beautiful fabrics. Her choice is that of a busy, modern mother.

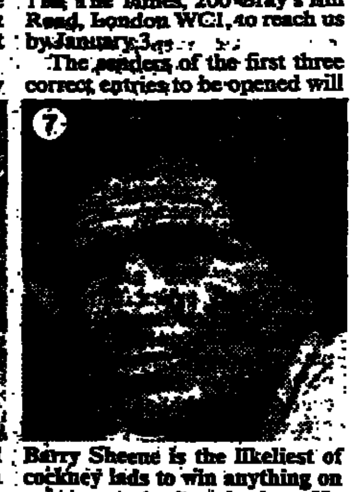

4 Daley Thompson broke the world decathlon record last year and is acclaimed as the greatest ever all-round athlete. His choice would certainly give him new worlds to conquer.

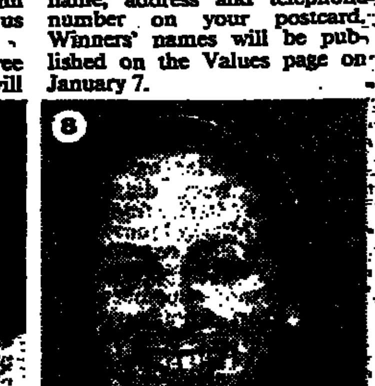

5 James Galway tours the world with an enormous repertoire of flute music and an engagingly humorous personality. If his choice is anything to go by, he has a practical streak.

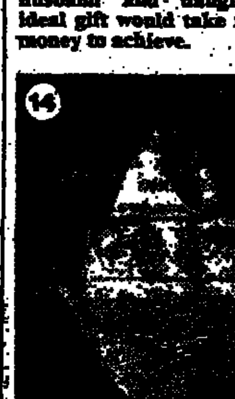
12 Leo McKern of the claret-rich voice and Toby jug face, is best known as Rumpole of the Bailey in the ITV series. He was born in Australia, and his choice displays a distinct wanderlust.


13 Richard Ingrams, super satirist, is editor of *Private Eye*. In view of one of his most long-standing feuds with a public figure, his choice for Christmas is at least nominally appropriate.

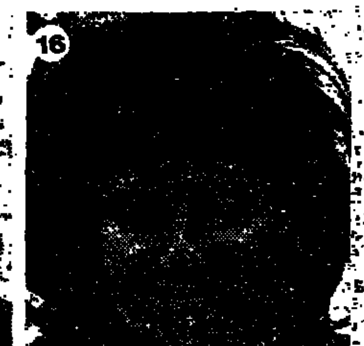

6 Actress Judi Dench's ideal holiday is to go camping on a remote Scottish island with her husband and daughter. Her ideal gift would take more than money to achieve.


7 Barry Sheene is the likeliest of cockney lads to win anything on two motorized wheels. He actually has his Christmas choice already, but would like a bigger and better one.


8 Clare Francis, the windswept girl who beat the Atlantic single-handed, is now a dollar millionairess and best-selling novelist. Her choice is somewhat impractical.


14 In 1970, Baroness Masham of Ilton became the youngest female holder of a life peerage, for social services and services to the handicapped. She has chosen to be self-indulgent.


15 Gary Weston has been chairman of Associated Foods since 1967. His choice is that of an idealist and a dreamer rather than the head of a highly competitive business.


16 Miriam Stoppard, is as glamorous a doctor as you are ever likely to meet. Married with two sons and two stepsons, her choice could be enjoyed by the whole family.


A. **A very expensive Staffordshire figure – an antique and a collector's item.**
This will have to wait until January 19 when *Christie's, South Kensington*, have their next sale of Staffordshire. The lot illustrated is a rare figure of Napoléon in black cocked hat and full uniform, 21½in high and expected to bring about £400. It is late nineteenth century, and we hope it inspires the recipient to even greater conquests.



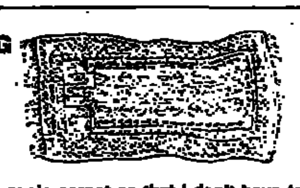
B. **A catering firm to deliver the kids' packed lunches at 7.45am each morning; a real creative talent – like the ability to draw; and a guaranteed night each week when theatre and cinema visits can be dependably arranged.**
So, to caterer Pamela Price, 26 The Pavement, Clapham Common, London SW4 for £2 per day packed lunches (plus £7.50 each way cab delivery); to Hatchards in Piccadilly for *Painter's Progress*, a year's art course in one wonderful book, £25; and to Lillywhites for a personal whip – the only way to achieve the third wish, £20 for a hunting crop, plus £13 for the thong. What the recipient really wants, of course, is eight days a week. Sorry.


C. **A replica of Captain Joshua Slocum's boat Spray for a year's wandering.**
This old sloop had been stuck in the mud for seven years when Slocum rescued her. She was found to have miraculous qualities (sceptical engineers call it perfect balance) which allowed her to hold course for hours with no one at the helm, and was the first ship to be navigated single-handed round the world. Eventually her marvellous attributes let her down and she disappeared on a winter voyage from Rhode Island in 1909. An unequipped replica would cost £80,000 or more.


D. **A small but imaginatively selected heap of modestly priced presents of exciting shapes and sizes suitable for a very young person – and a two-year-old to help open them.**
The presents were no problem, but the two-year-old will have to come later. Well-intentioned people do ask Dr Barnado's for a child for Christmas, but if you really want to help you can befriend a child on a long-term basis – outings, visits, holidays – and by next Christmas you could really have someone to open presents with you. John Belither, senior [illegible] officer (child care), Dr Barnado's, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, [illegible] the man to contact for information (01-550 8822). There are [illegible] child-care divisions.

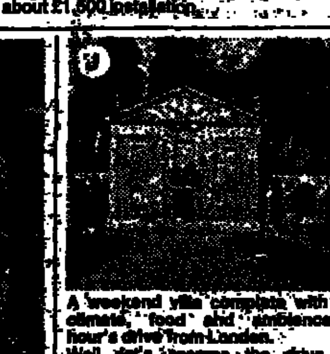

E. **I started with a Victorian conservatory and ended up with an indoor swimming pool. I'll settle for the swimming pool.**
No need. Francis Machin is a specialist in conservatories, from a small garden pagoda to international exhibition pavilions. This typical ogee-vaulted structure would cost about £25,000 from Machin Designs, 4 Avenue Studios, Sydney Close, London SW3. We are adding a 21ft by 15ft Calypso swimming pool by Cranleigh Clark for an additional £3,950, plus about £1,500 installation.


F. **My own merchant bank. I already advise companies with seven-figure portfolios on their investment policy, particularly with regard to property and unlisted securities.**
As it happens, one of the country's leading merchant banks, Singer & Friedlander, is for sale and a suitable bid now could well bring dividends. The head office is at 21 New Street, Bishopsgate, London EC2 and there are branches in Birmingham, Bristol, Glasgow, Leeds, Nottingham, Isle of Man and Switzerland, so for £50m or so, we could probably get a Swiss bank account number thrown in.


G. **A magic carpet so that I don't have to spend hours on flights, or a private Concorde with landing rights everywhere.**
Simple. This 100-year-old Baluchi rug was one of a bale bought by a broker. The minute she sold it for £60 everything started to go wrong, so she bought it back three days later for £70, whereupon her good luck returned. Not being very superstitious, she tested the rug by giving it to her mother. Same effect – bad luck until it was back home. Magic indeed. The current value is about £250, but for her it is priceless – and obviously a magic carpet automatically has landing rights anywhere.


H. **A trip in a space shuttle to see what weightlessness would be like.**
A six weeks' orientation and training programme costs around $75,000 and may not be far off for the public. But we are fixing the weightlessness experience by including a C1FF aircraft in this Christmas stocking – it's the one that takes potential astronauts on parabolic flights to give them a 20 to 30 seconds' sense of weightlessness. Not for the public, though, and we hope the recipient has a good head for heights.

I. **A trip for two to the Barrier Reef, calling in to the Polynesian islands.**
We have chosen a 20-day cruise round Tahiti, Moorea, Rarotonga, Tonga, Western Samoa and Fiji, £2,120 per person, and a three-day tour of Heron Island on the Great Barrier Reef, from £191. These are separate holidays in the Thomas Cook-Rankin Kuhn Faraway Places brochure, but Cooks will arrange variations to suit individuals.

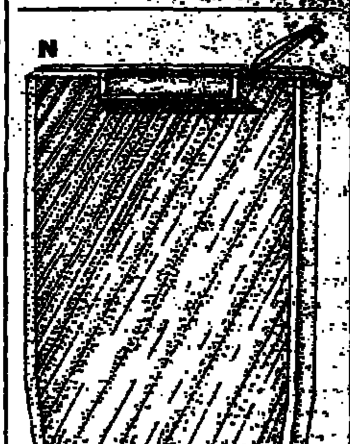

J. **A weekend villa complete with Italian climate, food and ambience, one hour's drive from London.**
Well, let's assume the drive is by helicopter – 150mph will take us to the Devon/Dorset coast. Knight Frank & Rutley estimate that to build a 10,000 sq ft villa in 15 acres and landscape it with Italian cypresses would cost around £1,250,000. We are adding a built-in Italian chef (producible for £50 by Finders, 25 Bedford Square, London, WC1 – the wages are up to the recipient) and, just in case Devon lets us down, a sunlamp, a Philips Ultraphil Special, £27.95, from Boots.

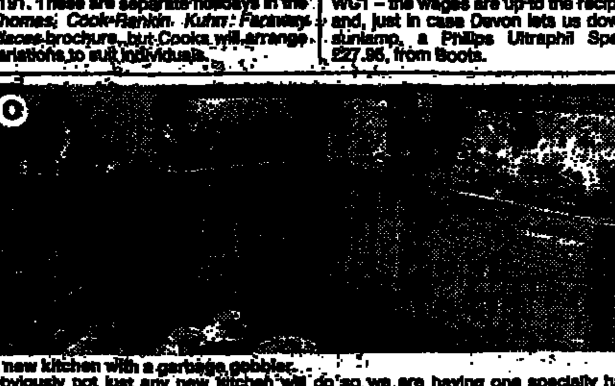

K. **Someone to take me in hand and make me a sylph.**
Who else but the author of the F-plan diet? Our gift is to arrange a weekly consultation with Audrey Eyton (not something she does in reality). Unfortunately the recipient will have to pay. Audrey finds from years of experience with slimmers that what motivates them is having to commit themselves to paying a lot of money. A regular weigh-in by someone else is essential, and she reckons it would take three months at £100 a week "with a touch of the lash and a lot of the carrot" to be effective. So this present is going to cost the chooser £1,200.


L. **A Sikorsky S76 helicopter, as I'm thinking of going for a commercial flying licence next year.**
There are only about four of these in Britain, so we are ordering one through the General Aviation Manufacturers and Traders Association, 26 High Street, Brill, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, who will pass the order on to Sikorsky in the United States. Delivery will depend on whether there is one in stock, and there are not likely to be many on the shelf at $1,800,000.



M. **A fairy factotum so that I could go to work knowing that my house would be decorated, desk sorted, cooking, cleaning and ironing done without my having to fret about it.**
Obviously Universal Aunts – "advice and aid in all emergencies" – would supply temporary help from their offices at 250 King's Road, London SW3. For something more permanent we may have to build a special robot, which can do everything at the press of a button, so we are commissioning the computer whizz kid, Clive Sinclair to design one – a little project which could cost at least half a million.


N. **A gold toothpick container. Not a gold toothpick – I don't like the idea of that – but something to put my toothpicks in.**
Asprey's catalogue features retractable gold toothpicks every year, but so far no container. To satisfy this whim, therefore, we had to buy an ordinary plastic flip-top container of Sanodent picks from Boots and ask the Asprey goldsmiths to make it up. Estimated cost: £750.


O. **A new kitchen with a garbage gobbler.**
Obviously not just any new kitchen will do so we are having one specially hand-crafted in oak by Smallbone. The design is a copy of a Victorian country kitchen and the backs of the units, doors, draw fronts and frames are old English oak with melamine-veneered interiors. Complete with Aga cooker, wall and floor tiles, about £10,400. Smallbone kitchens can be seen at Harrods.


P. **A never-ending supply of soft spring water from the Scottish Highlands.**
We tried to buy Highland Spring Ltd, Blackford, Perthshire, but it wasn't for sale and if it had been would have cost "millions and millions and millions". So we settled for a stretch of Highland countryside (just a couple of million) and, in case the spring runs dry, a lifetime's supply of Highland Spring in litre bottles – a bottle a day for 80 years, about £12,000. That should be enough to be getting on with.

IN THE GARDEN

Escape to the sweet scents of winter

For most of us Christmas is not a time for working in the garden – although lovers of solitude no doubt relish such an excuse for a few quiet moments away from the merry-making. However those who do venture outside, perhaps to walk off the effects of over-consumption, may be surprised at the wide range of flowering plants to enjoy in parks and gardens at this time of year.

The viburnum family is one of my favourites, and there are a number which produce scented flowers now. *Viburnum farreri*, with its tight clusters of white flowers, is one of the first to flower. *V x bodnantense* also has white flowers, in bigger clusters, the form Deben showing with a pinker bud.

These varieties are deciduous; the attractive evergreen *V Tinus* is also in flower now, although it is not scented. It has large clusters of white flowers opening from pink buds, and can be covered with blossom in mild spells.

Another scented plant is the wintersweet, *Chimonanthus praecox*. This shrub is best grown against a wall so that one can look up into the centres of the attractive flowers as they hang down.

To me the witch hazel is the best of the winter-flowering plants. Its unusually shaped flowers, formed on leafless stems, are strongly scented and it is possible to detect it by smell alone. *Hamamelis mollis* has rich yellow flowers; the form Pallida is nearer primrose in colour.

Honeysuckles are well known for their scent, and the shrubby *Lonicera fragrantissima* is no exception. It has masses of small creamy white flowers carried in the leaf axils. Although not showy in flower, it is well worth space because of its scent.

Finally, I would be delighted if I could get *Helleborus niger* to flower on Christmas Day for me; unfortunately, it is always that little bit too late.

Ashley Stephenson

DRINK

Restoratives and anaesthetics

Christmas Eve is the perfect time to start making that most Christmassy and traditional of tipples, mulled wine. Nearly every nation in northern Europe has its own version of a hot toddy or mull. The Swedes flavour theirs with aquavit, cardamom and dried fruits and call it *glögg*, the Germans frequently lace theirs with *Schnaps* and call it *Glühwein* or glowing wine, but the British still make the best:

The Bishop
1½ bottles modestly priced port; 2 oranges; handful of cloves; 1pt hot water; mixed spice; 2oz lump sugar

Stick the cloves into one of the oranges and roast it in the oven for about half an hour. Meanwhile, heat the port gently in a large saucepan being careful not to let it boil or all that precious alcohol will evaporate. In another saucepan boil the hot water and mixed spice together. Remove the roasted orange from the oven and add it to the large saucepan together with the port and hot spiced water. Finally rub the sugar lumps over the second orange to absorb its zest and oils, place the lumps in a large heat-proof punchbowl with the juice from the second orange and pour the hot port over this. Serves 15-20.

The Bishop makes an excellent warming drink before or after Midnight Mass. The most traditional Christmas Eve tipple, however, is the wassail bowl, which like the Bishop comes in dozens of different versions. This I think is the best:

Wassail bowl
6pt brown ale; ½lb soft brown sugar (or more to taste); 1 large cinnamon stick; 1tsp grated nutmeg; ½tsp ground ginger; 2 thinly sliced lemons; 2 roasted apples; 1 bottle inexpensive amontillado sherry

Pour 2pt of the ale into a large saucepan together with the sugar and cinnamon stick. Heat gently until the sugar has dissolved before adding all the other ingredients, and gradually bring the mixture up to the boil. If you want to give your wassail an extra kick, try adding a glass of brandy just before serving. Serves 25-30.

Serving a mull or punch on Christmas Day seems an unnecessary indulgence on top of all that festive food and wine. But on Boxing Day morning mulled wine is a good, cheap and simple way of warming up visitors using all those dregs of wine, port and brandy. On the other hand, if Christmas is proving all too much and the thought of spending yet another day with your relations is too horrible to contemplate, the only Boxing Day drink worth considering is:

Hot apple punch
6pt medium dry cider; 1 large cooking apple; cloves; ½lb soft brown sugar (or more to taste); 1 large stick cinnamon; 2 thinly sliced lemons; 1 bottle calvados

Stick the cloves into the apple and roast it in the oven. Meanwhile pour 2pt cider into a large saucepan with the sugar and cinnamon stick. Heat gently until the sugar has dissolved, remove the roast apple from the oven and add it together with all the other ingredients to the pan. Gradually bring the mixture to the boil. Serves [illegible].

Alternatively [illegible] feeling [illegible] may well [illegible] traditional [illegible] Boxing Day [illegible].

Bourbon egg-nog
2pt bourbon (or [illegible] whisky would do); [illegible] eggs; [illegible] the sugar; 2pt whipping cream.

Beat egg yolks with sugar until very [illegible] slowly and [illegible] constantly to [illegible]. Leave the mixture to stand for at least three hours or overnight so that it will not separate later. Just before serving whip the cream and beat the egg whites separately until stiff. Slowly add the whipped cream to the mixture and fold in the egg whites. Chill and serve with spoons. Serves 20 generously.

Happy Christmas!

Jane MacQuitty

REVIEW Theatre in 1983

Closing curtain on a dramatic year

Looking reproachfully at me as I write this piece is the still unsorted harvest of a year's theatregoing: a boxful of programmes from Stepney, Sheffield, Shaftesbury Avenue, and a good many places in between. Lying on top, for some reason, is one from a pub in the Mile End Road. I remember that night: the audience consisted of eight punks and me. Another one, sticking out at the corner, is from the Glasgow Citizens' and must be that Jacobean comedy in which most of the characters were dressed as Hollywood stars, from Jean Harlow to Mickey Mouse.

And that sleek one that reads simply "Y" dates back to a first night I can remember little about apart from my dazed companion repeating, "I just can't believe this is happening", and a momentary glimpse of George Melly sitting behind us in the stalls with mouth agape as if in speechless incredulity.

Other programmes are covered with scribblings which should revive forgotten delights and horrors at a glance, if I could only make out what they referred to. Bill Tidy's *The Great Eric Ackroyd Disaster* at the Oldham Coliseum has some of the most illegible jottings: it is hard to write properly when you are shaking with laughter and know that the next cue for hysteria will be on you within seconds.

Eric was, in his creator's words, a genius whose simple negligence caused "events which make other major natural catastrophes (Mrs Thatcher, Mr Foot, Roy Jenkins) appear to be inconsequential". As champion smoke-mixer in a fictitious northern town, he was responsible for maintaining the air at its correct degree of foulness: a moment's inattention, resulting in a burst of clean air, nearly killed everybody and wrecked the town's chances in the annual Industrial Coughing Championship at Wembley.

Disgraced, stripped of his bib and brace like an officer's stripes, and exiled (horror of horrors) to London, his decline and fall followed the primrose path of adulation as a real-life northerner – getting his own chat show, dabbling in politics, offering tripe to the Queen at her own garden party and becoming hopelessly addicted to an alcoholic liquid detergent called Soapo. As far as I remember, he ended up in St Devious's Hospice for Soapoholics, being looked after by some very peculiar nuns.

As far as comebacks from disaster are concerned, this year's prize goes uncontested to Peter O'Toole. The disaster in this case, you may remember, was a misproduced *Macbeth* at the Old Vic in 1980 that was very hard to sit through with a straight face. The comeback was as Tanner in *Man and Superman* at the Haymarket last winter. O'Toole not only had tremendous comic panache but a wild visionary quality that no recent actor playing the role has achieved.

His movements were ungainly, he murdered Shaw's prose rhythms, his voice cracked on almost every sentence, but you watched him in fascination and increasing delight: he knew just what he was doing, even if the rest of the cast seemed not to. Dwarfing everyone, he creased up James Grout with a specially impudent ad-lib and, on the narrow Haymarket stage, played the Act 2 scene with Tavy as a cricket match that had the poor lad as tensely defensive as a slip fieldsman in his first Test. I think you can look forward to his forthcoming Professor Higgins with apprehension and relish.

Another, supremely dignified comeback was made in April by the 79-year-old Vivian Ellis, whose *Mr Cinders*, revived in the West End after 54 years, had a fizzing opening night at the Fortune. Still in excellent shape, if reports are right, this originally large-scale musical got triumphant second wind as a pocket-size show starting at the King's Head. Some very gracious actresses from the age of Binnie Hale and Bobby Howes arrived in their limousines, and Mr Ellis rose amidst cheers at the end for a speech full of wit and mischief, pausing on the way only to whisper in my ear how nice it was to see a critic enjoying himself.

At my local theatre, the Royal Court, I have specially grateful memories of Caryl Churchill's *Fen*. The Joint Stock Company's stay of some weeks in a remote Fenland village last year produced a moving, sometimes grotesque, sometimes frightening sequence of scenes showing a society that had not left the irrational beliefs, terrors and brutalities of rural communities very far in the past.

The play, and actress Cecily Hobbs, would also win an award for the most hilarious, if hair-raising, story heard on the London stage this year: a seemingly endless tale of how a wandering boy got drawn into a gruesome axe-murder plot that included an adulterer's body buried under the murderer's name and a corpse getting out of its coffin to make a cup of cocoa.

The sly, gritty and resilient George Hewins, a Stratford-on-Avon man, would have taken all that in his stride. Some of his stories were just as astonishing and fortunately before he died in 1977 at the age of 98 his grandson's wife Angela taped his memories, which she shaped into a best-selling book called *The Dillen*. This summer the Royal Shakespeare Company staged it as a peripatetic outdoor performance.

The whole audience tramped past the Dirty Duck into the RSC's shack studio for the first scenes; through Holy Trinity Churchyard, up on to the Avon bridge to watch the cast pea-picking on the banks below; along the disused railway track to see George getting his first job as a brickie; and then into a tent for a horribly vivid evocation of his time on the Western Front.

It was such an experience that few of us managed any trenchant criticisms afterwards, and even my programme seems to have fallen by the wayside, probably on the torchlight procession back through the Stratford streets. It doesn't seem to be in the box, though among that lot one could hardly be sure. But who would spend an evening clearing out a programme box when he could go to the the theatre instead?

Anthony Masters

THEATRE QUIZ 1983

Can you put a name to the players and plays?

These seven photographs were taken from stage productions in London and Stratford-upon-Avon between October 1982 and September 1983. Give yourself one mark for each of the actors you can identify; one mark for the name of the play; one more for the author; and the final one for the theatre where the production took place (in one case, two theatres). That gives a maximum of 33 marks, but we reckon that 30 or more is worth a few curtain calls. The photographs were selected from *Theatre Year 1983* by Donald Cooper (Methuen, £5.95).



1. A cardinal switch from George to 'Enery



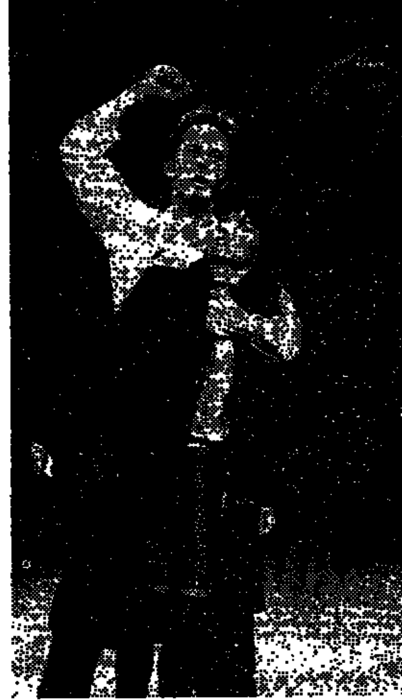
2. Seems to be a case of one nose trying to get up another



3. Ludwig contemplates an extra symphony



4. Alf from Wapping as Len from Lancashire, originally Naples



5. An air from a shoestring, or what the professor said to the student



6. Director, leading lady and burglar from farce-within-a-farce



7. Could almost be Ernie Wise trying to sell one of his plays to Eric

REVIEW Opera in 1983

Ring out the old with Solti and the probing Priestley



Shadowy success: Carol Maness as Electra in Trevor Nunn's Idomeneo at Glyndebourne

Priestley and Wagner, who might sound a little like a successful firm of solicitors, were the key names of the operatic year. Priestley delivered the Report on Covent Garden – and the RSC as well, although that section got rather less publicity. Wagner received considerable exposure.

Even back in January it looked as though the *Ring* cycle in Bayreuth was going to be the event of the year. And so it turned out. Early on it became known as the "British" *Ring*, partly in reaction to Chereau's staging last time round at the Festspielhaus and partly because of the weight of the forces involved: the production team of Peter Hall and Bill Dudley, Georg Solti (a naturalized Briton) in the pit and half a dozen UK singers.

Reports of international friction before the first night, which tried to make out that Bayreuth was more like a rerun of Colditz than Richard Wagner's opera house, were much exaggerated. The results were indeed controversial, but it has not been generally noted that the spearhead of the attack on Hall's staging came from the American and French critics: the reaction from the German press, as from the British, covered a wide spectrum of opinion.

For Solti there was little but praise. Hildegard Behrens as Brünnhilde delivered the most exciting singing I heard this year. And I will stick to my forecast of last July that this will develop into a memorable *Ring* especially now that relations between Britons and Bavarians are better. Solti just has to discover the Siegfried of his dreams.

Back in Britain there was more Wagner and more *Ring*, with two new native cycles beginning in the same week at the end of October. That was an unprecedented occurrence. The Welsh National Opera began at the beginning with *Rheingold* and the English National Opera opted for a more popular start in the shape of *Walküre*. Critical reaction to both was muted, but *Rings* are not to be judged on the basis of a single evening and the ENO, in particular, was hampered by the loss of its chosen Brünnhilde, Linda Esther Grey, for most performances.

And so to Clive Priestley and his massive report commanded by the Government. During the period it was compiled, with Priestley's investigators probing into every corner of the Opera House, Covent Garden was not having a happy time.

The 1982/83 season was a poor one, with so many publicized cancellations, and there might have been some trepidation in advance of Priestley's findings. But in fact Priestley came out and said what many of us have been saying for years: if Britain wants an international opera house then it must be prepared to pay for one. And he said it most clearly and cogently, adding correctly that a cut-price operation was useless.

Priestley must have cheered up the ROH board no end, so much so that it acted swiftly on some of his criticisms – the main recommendations look like being implemented by the Government – and have even taken on one member of the inquiry team in a private consultancy capacity. The recent new production of *Boris* also demonstrated an imagination and spirit of adventure which has been too often lacking in Bow Street.

Certainly there has been no lack of adventure in St Martin's Lane where the ENO have continued with a policy of putting on as many new productions as possible, several of little-performed works with costs either cut to the bone or shared with other houses. This might appear to be living dangerously, but under the Elder-Pountney regime – both are in their mid-thirties – controversy is deliberately courted. Some operas like *Rienzi* – more Wagner – you win; others like *Mireille* you wish you had never dreamt up.

The clear success of the Glyndebourne season, although no one would have noticed it from most of the press reviews, was the new production of Mozart's *Idomeneo*, which marked Trevor Nunn's début in opera. *Idomeneo*, which has always held a very special place in Glyndebourne repertoire, was staged quasi-Japanese style in a cool, clear light. Beautiful to look at and beautifully conducted by Bernard Haitink. Nunn himself made total dramatic sense of what can be the least dramatic of operas.

The regional companies, apart from the occasional foray, I could observe only from afar. The WNO, under Brian MacMaster, still gives us a better taste than any other theatre in this country, lyric or non-lyric, of European stagecraft, with Pintilie's version of *Carmen* as the extreme example. But the WNO virtually sold out at the massive Dominion in London earlier this month and that is MacMaster's due reward.

Scottish Opera, now run by John Cox, has been battling fiercely against those who would have it cut down in stature and, thank goodness, it appears to be winning. Opera North, also under a new director, Nicholas Payne, looks as though it is beginning to improve its casting which was not always satisfactory during its fledgling days.

Finally, a deferential bow to La Scala, Milan, which for the opening night of its season, December 7 as ever, made an unashamed return to old-fashioned opera spectacle. *Turandot* was the work, after many a change during the course of the year, and Franco Zeffirelli, returning to the house which has seen so many of his successes over the past quarter of a century, put on a super show. A touch of kitsch? Perhaps. A dash of Hollywood? Certainly. But the orchestra under Maazel sounded magnificent and soprano Ghena Dimitrova in this house, which is so sympathetic to the voice, did for Puccini what Behrens had earlier done for Wagner.

John Higgins

Quiz answers

Facts and figures of the year in view

Weather

1 (b) 1981-82, when three of four people died of hypothermia each day between October 1981 and March 1982. 2 (b) 1982. 3 (c) 1983. 4 (d) 1659. 5 (b) 16 – 10 was the figure for 1976. 6 (a) From March 14. 7 (d) Three inches of snow. 8 (c) July 21. A temperature of minus 128.6°F (minus 89.2°C), the lowest ever recorded, was registered at the Vostok weather station, Antarctica. 9 (c) La Camorra – the Naples branch of the Mafia. El Nino is the surge of warm water along the east coast of South America blamed for extensive drought; El Chichon is a Mexican volcano whose eruption is claimed to have disturbed weather patterns; Le Mistral is the French wind. 10 The Thames barrier.

Mystery headlines

The Queen let it be known she wished scarlet vestments to be reserved for clergy connected with the Royal Household again. 2 Falkland Islanders objected to a proposed visit by relatives of the Argentine war dead. 3 A performance of a new oratorio by Alfred Schnitke to be sung by Russia's favourite popular singer, Alla Pugachova, was banned in May. 4 The French requested that their President be served no cream sauces while attending the Williamsburg summit. 5 The auditions for the stage musical, *Bugsy Malone*, attracted 10,000 children for 96 parts. 6 Divisions over the choice of candidate in Clwyd North-west. 7 Not Beth Blackshaw, but Daphne Rae with her book. 8 Oxford and Cambridge men resident in the United States mounted a boat race for the "Britain Salutes New York" celebrations. 9 British members of the UN peace-keeping force were not allowed to wear their service medals. 10 Dorothea Barsby, who was said to have known that Geoffrey Prime was a spy, had been a paper candidate at the local elections. 11 Ford's discounts to launch the Sierra car were said to have rebounded on trade. 12 Workers who discovered a prehistoric mammoth under ice fed meat from its carcass to their dogs.

Animals

1 Roland Rat revived TV-am's ratings, inspiring the comment from a BBC spokesman. 2 A seagull – the baseball player responsible was charged with cruelty to animals. 3 The name was banned by new government food regulations. 4 The five horses, all trained by Michael Dickinson, took the first five places in the Cheltenham Gold Cup. 5 The deaths of three police and his owner in the sea at Blackpool. 6 The high jump for tigers – evidence was given at the inquiry into safety at John Aspinall's zoo after the deaths of two keepers that tigers had never been known to jump so high a fence before. 7 That of a wolf. He jumped at her during her visit to the Ideal Home exhibition. 8 Slowly, and the name of the elephant which died in London Zoo. 9 Both protected species are being fostered at defence establishments – Lakenheath and Greenham Common. 10 A parrot, for swearing in court. 11 Wiped out 90 per cent of the acorn crop. 12 The Beast of Exmoor.

Who said, referring to what

1 Joshua Nkomo: his departure from Zimbabwe after threats to his life. 2 Arthur Scargill of the General Election result. 3 Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice. 4 Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper. 5 Nick Owen, on receiving promotion at TV-am. 6 Sir Richard Attenborough, when his film *Gandhi* won 8 Oscars. 7 Lord Dacre (Hugh Trevor-Roper) when explaining why he thought the Hitler diaries authentic. 8 David Irving, when explaining why he thought the Hitler diaries authentic. 9 Eddie Shah, about publication at Warrington. 10 A member of the Swedish Literary Academy referring to Nobel Prize winner, William Golding.

Murders

1 (a) Champagne – Pamela Megginson was convicted of killing her lover with a bottle while making love. (b) Neckties – Donald Nilsen used all he had but one to strangle his victims. (c) Doc Marten boots – Maria Rose Lukacs kicked her landlord to death with a pair after he had made sexual advances. (d) A ruby kiss was the code Mrs Muriel McCullough used for the contract killing of her husband. (e) Christmas present – Jennifer Davis was convicted of manslaughter after shooting her husband with the gun he gave for Christmas. 2 Philippine opposition leader; Manila airport. South Korean foreign minister: Rangoon. PLO moderate: at conference of Socialist International, Algarve. MP for Belfast South: Queen's University, Belfast. 3 3,800. 4 63:32 to life imprisonment and 31 to terms from six to 30 years. 5 Ronald Gregory, former Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, after the publication of his account of the Yorkshire Ripper case. 6 Mozart's – an "inquest" was held at the Brighton Festival and the audience were polled as "jury".

Quotable quotes

1-10 All were said by Mrs Thatcher

Gold diggers of 1983

1 As divorce settlement. The former London shop assistant had become Sheika Dena al-Fassi. 2 The space shuttle – she was America's first woman astronaut. 3 Anna Ford, after throwing white wine at Jonathan Aitken. 4 Winella Merced. 5 In the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, where von Karajan insisted upon her appointment as principal clarinettist. 6 Sara Keays. 7 BBC newscaster, Linda Alexander. 8 Hid them when applying for a job at British Leyland, whence she was sacked as a "mole". 9 The Princess of Wales. 10 Princess Anne.

Politics

1 Arthur Scargill; Margaret Thatcher. 2 Roy Jenkins, as "Prime Minister designate". 3 Mgr Bruce Kent. 4 Roy Hattersley; Michael Foot. 5 Dr David Owen, according to Old Moore's Almanac. 6 By getting the lowest poll in any modern Parliamentary election, 8 votes in the Bermondsey by-election in which he finished sixteenth. 7 Peter Walker. 8 Peter Tatchell; Neil Kinnock. 9 Ken Livingstone. 10 Neil Kinnock, after writing his off on the motorway.

Died in 1983

1 Dr Bodkin Adams. 2 Billy Fury. 3 Tennessee Williams. 4 Ex-King Umberto of Italy. 5 Former British heavyweight champion, Don Cockell. 6 John le Mesurier (as announced in *The Times*). 7 Raymond Massey. 8 David Niven. 9 Luis Bunuel. 10 Beverley Nichols. 11 Michael Roberts, Under Secretary of State for Wales. 12 Arthur Koestler. 13 Peter Niesewand.

Thanks to Norris McWhirter of the Guinness Book of Records.

Royal tops and toes, people and places

1/B Princess Marie-Astrid of Luxembourg
2/A Princess of Wales
3/G Princess Elizabeth of Yugoslavia
4/I Princess Alexandra
5/C Princess Stephanie of Monaco
6/E Princess Caroline of Monaco
7/D Princess Michael of Kent
8/F Princess Margaret
9/H Princess Anne

I Inquest jury at Blackfriars Bridge where Signor Calvi's body was found; II Cimabue crucifix exhibited at the Royal Academy, London; III Mr Justice Woolf (second from left) a High Court judge being shown the remains of a tree that has been at the centre of a dispute between neighbours in Kensington, London; IV Part of the crowd at Wembley for the hockey match between England and West Germany; V Funeral of the former British diplomat, Donald MacLean in Moscow; VI Samantha Smith the American girl who was invited to visit Russia after she wrote to Pres. Andropov; VII George Meegan completing his 19,000 mile walk from the Southern tip of South America to the Arctic Ocean.

Theatre quiz: Actors and their acts

1. John Thaw in *Henry VIII* by Shakespeare, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford. 2. Derek Jacobi and Floyd Bevan in *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand, Barbican. 3. Peter Ustinov in his own play, *Beethoven's Tenth*, Vaudeville. 4. Warren Mitchell in *Ducking Out* by Eduardo de Filippo (English version by Mike Stott), Greenwich Theatre and Duke of York's. 5. Trevor Eve and Joanne Whalley in *The Genius* by Howard Brenton, Royal Court. 6. Robert Flemyng, Mandy Perryment and Benjamin Whitrow in *Noises Off* by Michael Frayn, Savoy. 7. Ian McKellen and Glyn Owen in *Short List* by Michael Rudman, Hampstead Theatre.

Christmas cheer around the world

1-K; 2-M; 3-P; 4-X; 5-N; 6-G; 7-E; 8-D; 9-J; 10-Y; 11-R; 12-A; 13-B; 14-T; 15-L; 16-H; 17-Z; 18-F; 19-V; 20-S; 21-I; 22-O; 23-Q; 24-W; 25-U; 26-C.

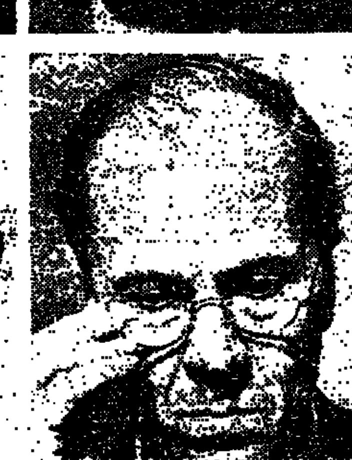
Crowning glories revealed

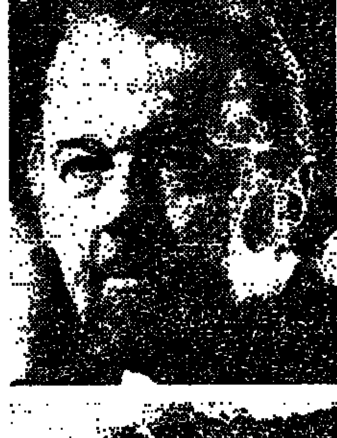
The owners of the top knots on page 1 are shown (right) in all their splendour. They are: J, Cecil Parkinson. K, Margaret Thatcher. L, President Ronald Reagan. M, Sean Connery, as he appears in the latest Bond film, *Never Say Never Again*. N, Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. O, Sir Peter Hall, director of the National Theatre. P, Shirley Williams. Q, Cyril Smith, Liberal MP for Rochdale. R, Peter Tatchell, unsuccessful Labour candidate for Southwark and Bermondsey in February.

















Glot Jol and a Happy Christmas!

Spread a little international understanding this year with the help of *The Times*'s cosmopolitan guide to Christmas. All you have to do to make your "Happy Christmas" understood and appreciated all round the world is to match the numbered greetings set out below with the 26 languages printed opposite them: then try them out on the appropriate foreigners. They may, of course, look at you blankly, in which case say it louder in the time-honoured English way. If that fails, use a different language – you're bound to get the message across in the end.

John Neville

1.	Joyeux Noel	A.	Afrikaans
2.	Fröhliche Weinachten	B.	Alur
3.	Buon Natale	C.	Arabic
4.	Feliz Navidad	D.	Catalan
5.	Boldog Karacsony Unnepeket	E.	Chinianja
6.	Vrolijk Kerstmis	F.	Danish
7.	Zikomo Combuilii	G.	Dutch
8.	Felic Nadal	H.	Estonian
9.	Zalig Kerstfest	I.	Finnish
10.	Miladi ya Salama	J.	Flemish
11.	Noeli na Malamu	K.	French
12.	Gelukkig Kersfees	L.	Friesian
13.	Noel mimoth	M.	German
14.	Noely mahafaly	N.	Hungarian
15.	In Tiege Goed Kristmis	O.	Irish
16.	Roomsaid Joulupuhi	P.	Italian
17.	God Jul	Q.	Lettish
18.	Glaedelig Jul	R.	Lingala
19.	Glot Jol	S.	Lithuanian
20.	Linksmu Kaleda	T.	Malagasy
21.	Joulu miellyttävä	U.	Norwegian
22.	Nollaig mhaith	V.	Old Norse
23.	Diena rikoja Kristus	W.	Polish
24.	Urodziny Chrystusa	X.	Spanish
25.	Store Christi	Y.	Swahili
26.	Id milad mubarak	Z.	Swedish

Answers in column 3

هكذا من الأصل

PREVIEW Theatre

Critics' choice

Unless otherwise indicated, all theatres are closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day and open Sat and weekdays as usual.

THE CUSTOM OF THE COUNTRY
The Pit (628 8795)
Mon, Tues and Wed at 7.30pm. In repertory (no other shows this week)
Taking a rare Jacobean comedy as its starting-point, Nicholas Wright's tale of innocent and fleshly love in turn-of-the-century Transvaal has a highly original flavour and provides Sara Kestelman and Sinead Cusack with two splendidly extravagant roles.

HAY FEVER
Queen's (734 1166)
Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.15pm; matinées Wed at 3pm. No perf today
Noël Coward's 1920s comedy about a theatrical family and their mixed bag of persecuted house guests remains hilarious after any number of revivals, and Penelope Keith takes to the leading lady's part as though to the bad manners born.

MR CINDERS
Fortune (836 2238)
Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 4.30pm and 8pm; matinées Thurs at 3pm. No 8pm perf today


Donald Sinden: Back to School

Packed with enchanting songs and boasting a witty performance by Denis Lawson of acrobatic brilliance, Vivian Ellis's 1929 musical recasts *Cinderella* in the anyone-for-tennis age.

PACK OF LIES
Lyric (437 3686)
Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.15pm; matinées Wed at 3pm. No perf today
Hugh Whitemore's powerful study of a decent couple whose quiet suburban life is destroyed by a Kroger-style spy case. Judi Dench and Michael Williams find tragic performances in the most humdrum surroundings.

THE RIVALS
Olivier (928 2252)
Mon-Wed at 7.15pm matinée Wed at 2pm. In repertory with Jean Seberg by Marvin Hamlisch, Christopher Adler, Julian Barry (Thurs and Fri at 7.15pm) (no perf today)
Peter Wood's sparkling revival of Sheridan fulfils the promise of its cast list. Geraldine McEwan as a young but hilariously affected Mrs Malaprop, Sir Michael Hordern gouty and irascible, Patrick Ryecart as a witty hero.

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL
Duke of York's (836 5122)
Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinées Wed and Sat at 3pm
First seen some months ago at the Haymarket, John Barton's handsome and intelligent production returns for Christmas with, as before, Donald Sinden and Beryl Reid in their broadest comic vein, plus some promising new recruits including Nicola Pagett.

TURNING OVER
Bush (743 3388)
This week Wed-Fri at 8pm only
Soon to be seen on television in *The Raj Quartet*, Geraldine James and Charles Dance inhabit another Indian setting in this thoughtful and very funny play: a hill-station where a quarrelling documentary team is shooting a film about the happy life.

Out of Town

BIRMINGHAM: Alexandra (021 643 1231). *Mother Goose by Bill* Roberton. Today at 2.30pm and 7pm. For a season, Mon-Sat at 7pm; matinées Mon-Sat at 2.30pm until Jan 7, then Tues, Wed. Thurs and Sat at 2.30pm until Jan 21, then Tues, Wed and Sat at 2.30pm
Featuring John Inman, Bill Maynard, Susan Maughan, Dawson Chance.

BRISTOL: Theatre Royal, Old Vic (0272 24388). The Merry Gentleman by Julian Slade. No perf today or Jan 30. Until Feb 4, Mon-Wed at 7.15pm, Thurs-Sat at 7.45pm; matinées Thurs at 3pm, Sat at 4pm (also Boxing Day, Dec 27-29 and Jan 2 at 3pm)
Slade's 1953 musical fairy tale contains some memorable tunes, and pleases adults and children alike. Roger Bizley, June Barrie, Ian Lindsay lead; John David directs.

BROMLEY: Churchill (460 6677). The Wizard of Oz. Today at 10.30am and 2.30pm. Until Jan 21, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinées Mon-Sat at 2.30pm until Jan 7, then Wed, Thurs and Sat at 4.15pm (except Jan 21 at 2.30pm)
Charlie Drake as the Cowardly Lion, Fenella Fielding as the Wicked Witch of the West, in the stage version of the MGM film musical.

CARDIFF: New (0222 32446). Humpty Dumpty. Today at 2.30pm only. Until Feb 4, Mon-Sat at 2.30pm and 7pm
Ventriloquist Keith Harris, with his most popular character Orville, plus pianist Bobby Crush and singer Jacqui Scott, in a pantomime with sets and costumes made in the workshops of the Welsh National Opera.

EXETER: Northcott (0392 54853). Showboat by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II. No perf today. Boxing Day, Tues and Dec 31 at 8pm, Wed and Thurs at 7.30pm. Until Feb 4, in repertory with *Merrikal* by Bernard Goss (Boxing Day, Tues and Dec 31 at 2pm and 5pm, Wed and Thurs at 2.30pm, Fri at 2.30pm and 7.30pm)
Ever-popular musical including such songs as "Old Man River", "Bill" and "Can't Help Loving That Man." Jan Hartley stars. Bob Goss's show is a new musical play for children by the author of *Big Noise at Fort Issimo*.

LIVERPOOL: Empire (051 709 1555/6699). Aladdin. Until Feb 11, Mon-Sat at 7pm; matinées on many days at 2.15pm
Comedian Tom O'Connor heads the cast of this family pantomime.

PETERBOROUGH: Key Theatre (0733 52439). Jack and the Beanstalk. Today at 1.30pm and 4.30pm. Boxing Day, Tues and Dec 31 at 1.30pm, 4.30pm and 7.30pm, Wed and Fri at 2.15pm and 7pm, Thurs at 4.30pm and 7.15pm. Until Jan 14, Mon-Sat at least two perfs daily
George Raymonde, Petra Siniawski, in a traditional family pantomime.

RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES: Richmond Theatre (940 0088). Dick Whittington by Roger Redfarn. Until Feb 2, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinées Mon-Sat 2.30pm until Jan 7, then Tues, Thurs and Sat at 2.30pm
Roy Hudd, June Whitfield, Hugh Lloyd, Richard Murdoch, Honor Blackman, John Hanson.

SCARBOROUGH: Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round (0723 70541). It Could Be Any One Of Us by Alan Ayckbourn. No perf today, Boxing Day or Tues. Wed-Fri at 7.30pm, Dec 31 (final perf) at 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Latest comedy-thriller by Ayckbourn has a different villain *and ending each performance.*

STRATFORD: Royal Shakespeare (0789 295623). The Comedy of Errors. Boxing Day at 7.30pm, Wed at 1.30pm
Paul Greenwood, Peter McEnery, Zoë Wanamaker, Richard O'Callaghan, Joseph O'Conor, directed by Adrian Noble.
Henry VIII. Tues at 7.30pm
Howard Davies directs John Thaw, Richard Griffiths, Gemma Jones, Paul Greenwood.
Julius Caesar. Wed at 7.30pm
Joseph O'Conor, Peter McEnery, David Schofield, Emrys James, directed by Ron Daniels.
Measure for Measure. Thurs and Fri at 7.30pm
Adrian Noble directs Daniel Massey, Peggy Mount, David Schofield, Juliet Stevenson.

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA, Southend: Palace (0702 42564). Jesus Christ Superstar by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. Until Jan 21, Mon-Thurs and Sat at 8pm, Fri at 8.15pm; matinées Jan 11 and Jan 18 at 2.30pm
Christopher Dunham directs this first local production of the popular rock musical treatment of the final week of the life of Jesus Christ.

WORCESTER: Malvern Festival Theatre (06845 3377). Toad of Toad Hall by A. A. Milne from the Kenneth Grahame book The Wind in the Willows; music by H. Fraser Simson. Opens Boxing Day at 2.30pm and 7pm. Tues at 2.30pm and 7pm, Wed at 2.30pm, Thurs at 7pm, Fri at 2.30pm. Until Jan 7, Mon and Thurs-Sat at 7pm; matinées Mon, Tues and Sat at 2.30pm
Malvern Theatre Players present a new production of the fantasy with music.

PREVIEW Films

Critics' choice

West End cinemas close for Christmas as follows. Tomorrow: Gate Notting Hill. Today evening performance and tomorrow: Cinecenta Leicester Square, Empire Leicester Square, Plaza Piccadilly Circus, Studio Oxford Circus. Today and tomorrow: Camden Plaza, Chelsea Cinema, The Lumiere, Warner West End. Today evening performance, tomorrow and Boxing Day: Odeons. Today, tomorrow and Boxing Day: ABC cinemas (except at Fulham Road and Shaftesbury Avenue, both open today), Academy Cinemas, Classics, Filmcenta Charing Cross Road, Prince Charles Leicester Square, Scene Leicester Square, Screen on the Green, Screen on the Hill, Timescenta Baker Street. Tomorrow and Boxing Day: Gate Bloomsbury, Gate Mayfair.

JAWS III D (PG)
ABC Bayswater (229 4149)
ABC Edgware Road (723 5901)
ABC Fulham Road (370 2636)
Classic Oxford Street (636 0310)
Plaza Piccadilly Circus (437 1234)
and on national release
A must for anyone still anxious to get his teeth into a good disaster/horror movie. The poor old great white shark is once again the villain of the piece, this time pitting his wits and outsize jaws against the well-meaning scientists running a kind of super underwater theme park in Florida. The implausible plot is redeemed by the use of a new 3-D technique.

THE JUNGLE BOOK (U)/ MICKEY'S CHRISTMAS CAROL (U)
Classic Chelsea (352 5096)
Odeon Kensington (602 6644)
Odeon Leicester Square (930 6111, ends today)
and on national release.
Walt Disney's glorious cartoon treatment of Rudyard Kipling, made in 1967, with excellent jokes and songs. Also, Mickey Mouse's comeback film, derived from Charles Dickens. It is a measure of the potency of the characters created at the Disney studios that they can be put into dramatic roles just like other movie stars; and as with their human counterparts, their own star personalities modify the characters they play.

LIQUID SKY (18)
Classic Chelsea (352 5096)
ICA Cinema (930 3647, closed Mon)
Unique and outrageous blend of punk musical, fashion show and science-fiction parody, filmed in New York by a group of Russian émigrés clearly delighting in Western decadence. New Wave dignitary Anne Carlisle stars as the Manhattan beauty whose roof plays host to an alien visitor hooked on heroin.

MARY POPPINS (U)
The Royal, Charing Cross Road (930 6915)
Disney's famous musical about an Edwardian nanny with magical gifts; full of high spirits, jolly songs and technical wizardry. Made in 1964, with Julie Andrews, David Tomlinson, Glynis Johns, Dick Van Dyke.


Jungle hero in tight squeeze

NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN (PG)
ABC Bayswater (229 4149)
ABC Edgware Road (723 5901)
ABC Fulham Road (370 2636)
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (836 8861)
Classic Haymarket (839 1527)
Classic Tottenham Court Road (636 6148)
Studio Oxford Circus (437 3300)
Warner West End (439 0791)
and on national release
"Never". Sean Connery used to say when asked to play James Bond again after relinquishing the role in 1971. Yet here he is – older, less jaunty, but still primed for action – trying to prevent the world's destruction in a renegade Bond adventure.

OLIVER TWIST (PG)
Classic Tottenham Court Road, (636 6148) matinées only
A new version of the Charles Dickens novel, made with an eye on television. Unambitious direction by Clive Donner, but the character actors are hard at work: George C. Scott as Fagin, Michael Hordern as Mr Brownlow and Tim Curry as Bill Sikes.

A STAR IS BORN (U)
Gate Notting Hill (221 0220/7270 5750)
The reconstructed version of Judy Garland's comeback vehicle – the familiar story of one star rising while another descends, directed in 1954 by George Cukor with due devotion to his star. The extra 28 minutes give us two new songs, tart background details and a running time of almost three hours; lay persons might fidget, but Garland fanatics should be well pleased.

TRADING PLACES (15)
ABC Bayswater (229 4141)
ABC Edgware Road (723 5901)
ABC Fulham Road (370 2636)
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (836 8861)
Empire Leicester Square (437 1234)
A smug white pillar of Wall Street is forced to swap fortunes with a resilient black conman. John Landis's comedy avoids trenchant satire and lacks the rigorous wit of its Hollywood ancestors, but performances and details please. Viewed by a large audience bent on enjoyment, its success seems guaranteed. With Dan Aykroyd, Eddie Murphy, Ralph Bellamy, Don Ameche, Jamie Lee Curtis.

Programmes now change on Fridays in cinemas throughout Britain. The information in this column was correct at the time of going to press. Late changes are often made and it is advisable to check, using the telephone numbers given.

PREVIEW Music

Concerts

THE WINNER
Tues, 8pm, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (628 8795, credit cards 638 8891)
Stephen Hough, winner of the Naumberg, Terence Judd and BBC Young Musician awards, plays Grieg's Piano Concerto with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under James Blair. Also on the programme are Beethoven's Symphony No 5 and Handel's Royal Fireworks Music.

HILLIARD ENSEMBLE
Thurs, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (935 2141, credit cards 930 9232)
The Hilliard Ensemble's entertainment is drawn from sources as diverse as *Henry VIII's Manuscript* and the *Yale Songbook*. Schubert, Warlock and Percy Grainger are also heard from.

Percy Grainger: Entertaining

NORTHERN STRAUSS
Thurs, 7.30pm, Usher Hall, Lothian Road, Edinburgh (031-228 1155/6)
Conducted by Sir Alexander Gibson, the Scottish National Orchestra plays Strauss waltzes such as *Morning Papers* and *1001 Nights*, Strauss polkas like *Feuerfest* and *Tritsch Tratsch*, overtures such as *Die Fledermaus*.

RIFKIN RAGS
Thurs, 8pm, Barbican Centre
Best-selling Nonesuch LP-maker Joshua Rifkin plays Scott Joplin rags such as *Maple Leaf, The Entertainer, Elite Syncopations, Wall Street, Gladiolas.*

STEBBING'S LYRICS
Fri, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
The Endymion Ensemble gives the world premiere of Martin Stebbing's *Lyrics*. They also interpret Schubert's Octet D 803 and Mozart's Flute Quartet K 285.

NEW WORLD
Fri, 8pm, Barbican Centre
This time Norman del Mar conducts the RPO at the Barbican. They perform Dvořák's "New World" Symphony, Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* Overture, and John Ogdon solos in Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 2.

Rock & Jazz

PAUL YOUNG
Tonight, Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (748 4081)
Undoubtedly one of the faces of the year. Young will probably be sad to see the last of 1983 and must already be wondering how to follow the enormous success of *No Parlez*.

GEORGE MELLY
Tonight and Mon to Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Frith Street, London W1 (439 0747)
A surrealist's vision of Bessie Smith reincarnated as a beatnik *belle-lettriste*, accompanied by the admirable John Chilton and his Feetwarmers.

THE POLICE
Tues, Wed, Fri and Sat, Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex (902 1234)
What was good about "Every Breath You Take" was that, as the best example of pure-pop simplicity in years, it showed up the redundancy of the nonsense Sting gets up to when he picks up Jung instead of putting on James Brown.

MUD
Wed, New Golden Lion, 490 Fulham Road, London SW6 (385 3942)
The New Golden Lion is one of London's better rock pubs, and should be packed for the former stars of *TOTP* and *Supersonic*. Les Gray's Elvis impersonation on "Lonely This Christmas" should be worth travelling to hear.

DAVID ESSEX
Thurs/Fri, Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (589 8212)
Will that twinkling smile reach the stratospheric balconies along with the best ("Rock On") and worst ("A Winter's Tale") of his songs?

1984 ROCK WEEK
From Thurs, ICA Theatre, Nash House, The Mall, London SW1 (930 0493)
A predictable Orwellian theme – manna in months to come for the Armageddon fans of *The Face* and *NME* – encompasses such luminaries as Einsturnzende Neubaten, The Red Guitars and the highly-rated Billy Bragg. Ring for details.

ORCHESTRA JAZIRA
Fri, 100 Club, 100 Oxford Street, London W1 (636 0933)
Widely praised for their mutation of African high-life music, Orch Jaz enjoy the honour of being nominated as *City Limits'* favourite live band.

Opera

COVENT GARDEN
Christmas at the Royal Opera House means Placido Domingo conducting *Die Fledermaus*. Kiri te Kanawa and Hermann Prey return to the cast, Michael Langdon comes out of retirement to be Colonel Frank, and Doris Soffel sings the first mezzo Orlofsky of this production. Just two performances this week: a matinée on Mon and a performance at 6.30pm on Dec 31. (240 1066)

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
The Coliseum will be closed from today until Wed. It reopens on Thurs with a characteristically original entertainment, Janáček's delightful man-in-the-moon fantasy, *The Adventures of Mr Brouček*, conducted by Charles Mackerras, with another performance on Dec 31. There is one last chance to see Gounod's *Mireille*, on Fri. (836 3161)

OPERA NORTH
Just two performances over the Christmas-New Year season, both of the new *Eugene Onegin*, directed by Graham Vick with Jonathan Summers as Onegin and Eileen Hannan as Tatyana. Wed and Fri at the Grand, Leeds. (0532 459351)

HANSEL AND GRETEL
Christopher Fifield conducts and Christopher Renshaw directs a cast of young British opera singers in a new production, with Sheila Steafel as the Witch. Bloomsbury Theatre, Mon-Sat until Jan 14. (387 9629)

Dance

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET
Sadler's Wells (278 8916). Opens Thurs, until Jan 14; evenings (not Sun) at 7.30pm, matinées Sat at 2.30pm
The season opens with *Coppelia*. Sherilyn Kennedy, Roland Price and John Auld lead the cast Thurs; on Fri, Karen Donovan makes her debut with Carl Myers and David Bintley. Four other programmes to follow.

ROYAL BALLET
Covent Garden (240 1066). Mon at **7.30pm, Tues at 2.30 and 7.30pm, Thurs at 8pm, Fri at 7.30pm**
Ashton's *Cinderella* has four different casts this week, headed by Marguerite Porter and Jay Jolley (his first, Mon), Wendy Ellis and Stephen Jefferies (Tues matinée), Jennifer Penney and David Wall (Tues eve). Lesley Collier and Anthony Dowell (Thurs). For audiences surfeited by seasonal fare, there is just one performance remaining of the new ballets by David Bintley and Richard Alston, together with MacMillan's *Requiem* (Fri).

WAYNE SLEEP
Dominion, Tottenham Court Road (580 9562). Evenings (not Sun) at 7.30pm, matinées Sat at 2.30pm
Another light-hearted dance show – *Dash*, in town for a limited Christmas season.

THE GENEE BALLET
East Grinstead, Adeline Genée Theatre (034287/532). Opens Mon until Jan 7, evenings (not Sun) at 7.30pm, matinées Wed and Sat at 2.30pm
A small, struggling but hopeful company presents extracts from *The Nutcracker* and *Coppelia* and a Gershwin ballet made for them.

Theatre: Irving Wardle and Anthony Masters; Galleries: John Russell Taylor; Photography: Michael Young; Films: Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams; Opera: Hilary Finch; Dance: John Percival

PREVIEW Galleries

Unless otherwise stated, galleries are closed today, tomorrow, Boxing Day and Jan 1

PHILIP GARNER
Boilerhouse, Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (581 5273). Until Jan 5, Mon-Thurs and Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm
The American artist and author of *The Better Living Catalogue and Utopia* is in London for three weeks to exhibit his absurd inventions, including a Cap-for-Two and a Munch-o-matic sandwich holder for the busy typist. Mr Garner is also assembling new products from objects found around London.

LIGHT DIMENSIONS
Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 (589 3456). Until Mar 4, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2.30-6pm
Exhibition on the evolution of holography, the creation by laser of three-dimensional images which enables objects to float in space. It was invented 36 years ago by Denis Gabor but only now is its potential starting to be realized. As well as having important commercial and industrial applications, it may be said to constitute a new art form.

JOHN PIPER
The Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (821 1313). Until Jan 22, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm (closed to Wed and Jan 1)
This exhibition celebrating the artist's eightieth birthday is the largest of his work ever mounted and shows his development through his watercolours of the British countryside, early abstract paintings and excursions into other media, such as the stained glass for Coventry Cathedral.

ISLAMIC ART AND DESIGN 1500-1700
Special Exhibitions Gallery, British Museum, London WC1 (636 1555). Until Feb 19, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30-6pm
An exhibition of the great achievements of Islamic art produced under the Ottomans in Turkey, the Safavids in Iran and the Moguls in India. All three empires shared a common taste for hardstones, textiles, pottery, calligraphy and fine arms.

REG BUTLER (1913-1981)
The Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (821 1313). Until Jan 15, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm (closed to Wed and on Jan 1)
This memorial exhibition, the first survey of the sculptor's career, includes more than 100 sculptures and drawings. After a late start his work developed considerably, from the stripped black iron figures of the late 1940s to the fully rounded bronze female nudes with real hair completed in the 1970s and now exhibited together for the first time in Britain.

RAOUL DUFY
Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3144). Until Feb 5, Mon-Wed 10am-8pm, Thurs-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-6pm
Running concurrently with the exhibition of Hockney photographs is the largest survey of Dufy's art ever staged. The radiant and optimistic painter of yachts, regattas, racecourse scenes and harvests is represented by several paintings not seen before in England, while four large murals commissioned by Guy Weisweiller for his villa at Antibes are being given their first public display.

THE GENIUS OF VENICE 1500-1600
Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 (734 9052). Until Mar 11, daily 10am-6pm (closed today and tomorrow only)
The sixteenth century was the most glorious epoch for Venetian art. Carpaccio's painting "The Lion of St Mark" symbolizes Venetian power and introduces an exhibition of 300 masterpieces drawn from collections thoughout the world, and including the recently restored "Judgment of Solomon" painted by Giorgione or Sebastiano del Piombo, or the two together.

POLITE SOCIETY BY ARTHUR DEVIS
National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (930 1552). Until Jan 29, Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm
Arthur Devis painted portraits of the English country gentleman and his family grouped informally in the drawing room or set against the backdrop of the family estate. His gentle "conversation pieces" contain meticulously observed detail and reflect the contemporary preoccupation with the social graces in the eighteenth century. Also (until Jan 8) pictures by William Dobson, the leading British-born portrait painter of the seventeenth century.

Photography

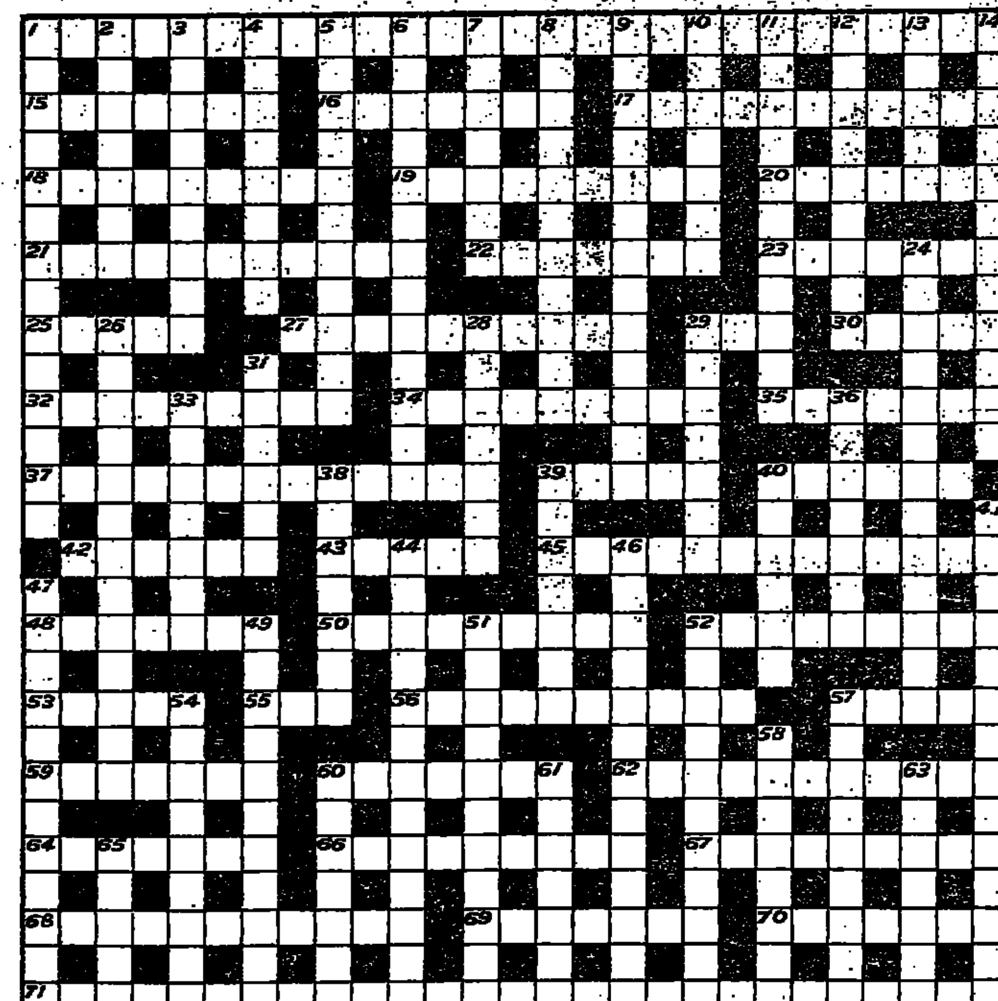
PILGRIMAGES
Henry Cole Wing, Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (589 6371). Until Feb 26, Mon-Thurs 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm
Marketa Luskacova's photographs of the people of remote eastern Slovakia between 1967 and 1974 began as a document of their religious festivals but developed into an intimate journal of the way of life of an ancient upland village. The black and white prints offer an extraordinary insight into the religion experience of a peasant people whisked into the twentieth century. Also on show are some recently donated Paul Strand photographs, which although tiny in size are grand in vision. They include a little-known portrait of Alfred Stieglitz. Six newly acquired Cartier Bresson photographs, the most recent of which was taken in 1982, can also be seen.

KENNEDY: A TIME REMEMBERED
Olivier Gallery, National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (928 2033). Until Jan 21, Mon-Sat 10am-11pm (closed today, tomorrow and Jan 1)
Jacques Lowe was John F. Kennedy's official and personal photographer for several years, during which time he amassed over 40,000 pictures of the president and his family.

HOCKNEY'S PHOTOGRAPHS
Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (928 5708). Until Feb 5, Mon-Wed 10am-8pm, Thurs-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-6pm
Audacious, arrogant but wonderful composite colour constructions that seem to sprawl over acres of wall space. David Hockney expands the limit of traditional photography. Portraits, landscapes and intimate glimpses of the artist's friends and family.

The Times Jumbo Crossword

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first three correct solutions opened on Tuesday, January 3, 1984. Entries should be addressed to The Times Jumbo Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London, WC99 9YT. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, January 7, 1984.



ACROSS
1 Report of an early post-Christmas expedition in Bohemia (4,3,7,5,4,4).
15 Tempts whole of America, round about (7).
16 Catalogue that is including this publication perhaps (7).
17 A diamond for instance to help him make light of his work? (5-6).
18 It could be eg cheaper to give losers a second chance (9).
19 Old-time delicacies after bad cooking one renounces (9).
20 For an actress the part is genuine, in taking the lead (7).
21 Turned out The Pirate appears in text changed by editor (11).
22 How to beat Bill, tense when receiving many a severe blow (4,3).
23 Outlaw appears to reach the end of it (7).
25 Abode of the dead, or headless ghosts (5).
27 A grim horse destroyed the sacred symbols (10).
29 Note the centre of our system (3).
30 Colourful article on field-work (5).
32 "April is the — month" (Eliot) (9).
34 Oriental king of Rome in public is subject to excessive strain (9).
35 Sapper has one performing as source of power (7).
37 Revelation early in Genesis? (13).
39 In France where salt is needed to get the bird (5).
40 An examining body embarked (6).
42 Liverpudlian that is to say Yorkshire river (6).
43 A minor prize? (5).
45 From former schooldays I race to utter destruction (13).
48 Gangster has cowl fitted to chimney up north (7).
50 Religious examination, this, Mecca variety (9).
52 The one that was bound to work? (4-5).
53 Man of degree, so sort of English! (5).
55 Artist's cape for an Abyssinian prince (3).
56 Do we never never stop making them? (10).
57 Novel caller (5).
59 Mungojerrie was a cat about to commit a felony (7).
60 Quickest way to get me back to Nepal perhaps? (7).
62 Everyone, say, coming to California, grabbing gold, one description of Pilgrim's Progress (11).
64 Family accepts about £1,000 returned by Russian government (7).
66 Meditating no longer, dear? (9).
67 Dispossessing of record held in motoring (9).
68 Make professional member sign article on introduction (11).
69 Fifty buried in eastern snow-track, the letter reads (7).
70 Hope's place. Appendices show how to make it from Z (7).
71 Short fellow's wooing, narrated by a long one (3,9,2,5,8).

DOWN
1 American's grouse resulting from egg served with sauce? (7,7).
2 Girl and I have narcotic form of turpentine (7).
3 A court is troubled about nothing very wicked (9).
4 Died swallowing tropical tubers the wrong way – most upset (8).
5 Work by Dickens or Hardy on tobacco (6,5).
6 Great character Joan, for instance, as a poet (9,4).
7 Note about terrible din made by soldier in Burma (7).
8 Congé taken rather than given (6,5).
9 Eschewing Mammon? My goodness! (13).
10 Notice among these perhaps an intercom attachment (4,3).
11 As a kind of knight one hops possibly higher than others (11).
12 "Grey? Not us" perhaps says one such (9).
13 Overcome, beheaded and devoured (5).
14 That of J S Bach will immediately follow Orwell's famous work (12).
24 In limits of directive end is uncertain (13).
26 Cheat with a Dover-Calais return ticket? (6-7).
28 Hailed? That is in some degree tedious (7).
29 In parts, contrariwise, abstainer is one creating trust (7).
31 Stalky's coleopterous friend (6).
33 Cricket side draw? Just kidding (3-4).
36 A tree's about right cover for us in cold weather (7).
38 Nice distinctions – troublesome things one's abandoned (7).
39 Comply with receiving order given to Fido, seen in round figures (7).
40 In among friends in French city (6).
41 Device can perhaps help chap go near seeing how the brain works (14).
44 Othello's cannibals (13).
46 Moody way of painting – crazy (13).
47 Dread summons at the Admiral Benbow – dangerous place (3,5,4).
49 Dramatist John and author George almost have a battle (7,4).
51 Master Pooter Latinized by Jules Verne (7,4).
52 For Tweedles Dum and Dee it was bolsters, blankets, coal-scuttles, etc. (11).
54 Spanish gentleman visitor embraces Jack with love (9).
57 Adam's apple from this tree (Milton) (9).
58 Growth of establishment of battery hens? (3-5).
60 Teams have quarters round the loch (7).
61 Smile wryly about Italian form of government (7).
63 An itch one treated with wine (7).
65 Call up the previous day about approval (5).

Name ....

Address ....

....

Concise Jumbo Crossword

Solution in Tuesday's paper, no prize

ACROSS
1 "Wobblies" Revolutionary Union federation (10,7,2,3,5)
15 Latent (7)
16 Origin (7)
17 Hunter's hat (11)
18 Docker (9)
19 Beneficial enlivener (4,5)
20 Badly brought up (3,4)
21 Jewish New Year (4,7)
22 Change resister (7)
23 Yearly books (7)
25 Horse hindquarters (5)
27 Religious emissary (10)
29 45 inches (3)
30 Outstanding (5)
32 Habitually drunk (9)
34 Firmly resolute (9)
35 Justifications (7)
37 Mislaid on journey (4,2,7)
39 Very steep (5)
40 Flight of steps (6)
42 Nasal exhalation (6)
43 Indispensable (5)
45 Extremely proper (9,4)
48 Discharged (7)
50 Leg-splitting high jumper (9)
52 Bleakness (9)
53 Assumed name (5)
55 Automobile (3)
56 Beach flea (10)
57 With radiating paths (5)
59 Wash thoroughly (7)
60 Grow together (7)
62 Perform as group (3,2,6)
64 Vehicle movement (7)
66 Safe from extreme cold (5,4)
67 Not admirable (9)
68 Give up expectation (7,4)
69 Sobbed without restraint (7)
70 Become aware (3,4)
71 Oscar Wilde play on names (3,10,2,5,7)

DOWN
1 Very durable (14)
2 Makes gloomy (7)
3 Star vehicle (5,4)
4 Pointing backwards (8)
5 Taken as a body (11)
6 Drinking vessels contents (13)
7 Act in reply (7)
8 Relieve hurt (4,3,4)
9 Seated existence (9,4)
10 Swindled (7)
11 Medical institution worker (11)
12 Feeble people (9)
13 Ash scraper (5)
14 Extreme anguish (4,8)
24 Aptly (13)
26 Too easily offended (4,9)
28 Of planet circle (7)
29 Satiate (7)
31 Shake noisily (6)
33 Clothing (7)
36 Component checker (7)
38 Counsellor (7)
39 Cunning procedure (7)
40 Begin journey (3,3)
41 Next Republican leader (9,5)
44 Dancer (13)
46 Unique (13)
47 Refractory (12)
49 Diminuendo (11)
51 Main meal board (6,5)
52 Large load (5,6)
54 Cain or Abel (3,2,4)
57 Restorer (9)
58 Corresponding thing (8)
60 Deliberate insult (7)
61 Head pad (7)
63 Blissful (7)
65 Cognizant (5)

SOLUTION TO No 226 (Last Saturday's prize concise)
ACROSS: 1 Dates 4 Set back 8 Coypu 9 Topical 10 Metaphor 11 Gene 13 Afoot 15 Satyr 19 Runt 20 Grand mal 23 Analogy 24 Vegan 25 Hardpad 26 Least
DOWN: 1 Decamp 2 Tryst 3 Sculptor 4 Sitcom 5 Tape 6 Alchemy 7 Killer 12 Carnival 14 Funfair 16 Breath 17 Frayed 18 Planet 21 Magma 22 Loop

Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

The winners of the prize concise No 226 are: Mr C. P. Metcalfe, 17 Elm Road, Redhill, Surrey, and Mrs T. P. Bowis, 50 Harrington Road, Brighton, East Sussex.

SOLUTION TO No 231
ACROSS: 1 Drawing 5 Names 8 Rho 9 Silesia 10 Lists 11 Stir 12 Precise 14 Princess Royal 16 Roguish 18 Swap 21 Tenon 22 Require 23 Aid 24 Dwell 25 Epigeal
DOWN: 1 Dose 2 Allot 3 Instructional 4 Grasp 5 Nolle prosequi 6 Mistily 7 Sisterly 13 Spirited 15 Ingenue 17 Horde 19 Aside 20 Deal

Family Life

Not-so-decorous fun and games in the parlour

There is a deal of Victoriana around this Christmas, prompted perhaps by the exhibition at the Royal College of Art, "Albert, Prince Consort, His Life and Work". We've had Victorian carol concerts, balls, music halls, street parties – and theatrical costumiers have been doing a brisk trade. To continue the theme, here is a selection of Victorian parlour games for your delectation.

The Victorians enjoyed games, especially the round or parlour variety. They devised hundreds of them. Many centred on repetition, the use of the alphabet, on games of Buff (as in Blind Man's Buff), of general knowledge, deduction and concentration. There was also a strong element of teasing and punishment – in the games themselves and in forfeits.

As children we may have rolled our eyes as great grandmama told us of the simple pleasures she enjoyed around fire or piano, but there was a lot to be said for this kind of family entertainment. We cannot, nor would want to put the clock back; but when it is cold outside, computer games have palled, and you've seen the latest video three times, you could do worse than get together and play. Though most of the games I give below are obviously designed with children in mind, all but the most staid of adults can enjoy them too. Especially when the port has been passed.

There is a wonderful quotation in *Cassell's Complete Book of Sports and Pastimes* (1896) which I will, tongue only slightly in cheek, pass on:

"A long time ago it was observed of the English as a race that they took their pleasures sadly; but we will hope that henceforth the observation may be applicable to past generations only, and that *our readers at any rate* will resolve that when they play they will play heartily; just as when they work they will work heartily . . ."

Judy Froshaug

Forfeits

The best forfeits are often those invented on the spur of the moment – tailored to suit, or rather *not* to suit the victim. The Victorians compiled hundreds of them, including the following. I leave it to you to work out how they are performed and or to modernize them:

Kneel to the wittiest, bow to the prettiest and kiss the one you love best; put one hand where the other cannot touch it; take one of your friends upstairs and bring him down with a feather; blow a candle out blindfold; kiss your own shadow; form a blind judgement; laugh in one corner, sing in another, cry in another and dance in another; leave the room with two legs and return with six; ask a question the answer to which cannot possibly be answered in the negative; put yourself through the keyhole/letterbox; sit upon the fire; kiss the one you love best without



Mary Evans Picture Library

anyone knowing it; act the dummy/parrot; shake a sixpence off your forehead; show the spirit of contrary (do the opposite of what you are told); make a perfect man/woman/child; give good advice; the natural historian (imitate whatever animals are mentioned); "Twas I (answer to every remark such as "today I saw the silliest/fattest/most absurd . . ."); spell a long word backwards; perform a cats' chorus/blind dance.

Dumb crambo

A Victorian variation of a very old game (Pepys wrote about crambos, or rhymes). One team leaves the room, an opposing team chooses a word. One of the players inside then goes out and gives the other side a word which rhymes with the chosen one. The team outside returns and all its players mime the word they think may have been chosen. (If, for example, they have been given the word "tell", they might mime "sell".) If they guess right, the watching team claps; if wrong they are hissed and must leave the room, think of another word, return and go through the same process; and so on until they succeed. Clapping and hissing are the only communication allowed between the teams; no one must speak. Each failure to guess the right word is noted and at the end of the game, when the two sides have swapped roles, the team with the fewest failures wins.

Person and object

Two people leave the room together and decide on a person one of them shall represent, and an associated object, the other. In my Victorian book of parlour games, Mr Gladstone and his axe and Lord Beaconsfield and his curl are given as examples: today Mr Foot and his overcoat, Alex Higgins and his cue or Daddy and his copy of *The Times* might be more appropriate. On returning to the room, the players address questions first to the person, then to the object. Each must answer truthfully but only about himself or herself, giving no clue to the other's identity, until both are discovered.

The stool of repentance

A typical Victorian parlour game which relies largely on knowing what the others think of you. A "prisoner" either volunteers or is chosen by drawing the lowest card from a pack. He leaves the room (no listening at the door) and the remaining players are asked to tell the prosecutor (the player drawing the highest card) what charges they wish to level at the prisoner: "He's better than I am at football", "He takes an hour to get dressed", "She's prettier than I", etc. The prosecutor writes down the charges with the names of the accusers beside them. The prisoner is brought in and sits on a chair in front of the other players and the prosecutor begins: "Prisoner at the Bar you are charged with . . . Who makes the accusation?" If the prisoner guesses correctly, he earns one remission; if he fails he collects a forfeit. At the end of the questioning if he has guessed correctly more times than not he is set free. Otherwise he pays the number of forfeits accumulated.

Charades

In the unlikely event that you need to be reminded of the rules, the party is divided into two teams, one of which after some consultation and preparation (dressing up encouraged) acts out syllable by syllable or word by word, a proverb, story title, song, carol etc, finally re-enacting the whole. If the other team guesses the subject, they score a point. In Victorian times it was usual for players to speak during the action, each "scene" a mini play in which the relevant word was mentioned at least once. With the advent of *Give us a Clue* on television, miming has become more fashionable, but using words can still be great fun to watch, particularly when young children are acting.

Murder

An intense young student of sociology once bored me almost to death at a party with his explanation of the psychological implications of this game. It had, he said, to do with pubescent sexuality, innate guilt and a latent death wish. Take as many cards from a pack as there are players, including a single ace and a single jack. Shuffle and deal. The player drawing the ace is the detective, drawing the jack, the murderer. The detective stays put in a lighted room while all the other lights in the house are turned out. Then the players move around the house as best they can. After a few minutes in the dark the murderer selects his victim and, stealing up behind him, puts his hands round the victim's neck (or with very young children or any one with a heart complaint, taps three times on his shoulder) and whispers in the victim's ear "I'm Jack; you're dead". The victim must not utter a sound, but waits for a silent count of 10 then screams and falls in a heap. All players must stand exactly as they were when the scream was heard while the detective goes round the house putting on lights and taking notes of people's whereabouts. Everyone, including the victim, then returns to the station and the detective begins his questioning, indirectly trying to discover the murderer's identity (how long had you been in the room, who was with you? and so on). All must tell the truth except the murderer, who can lie his head off. When the detective is sure he knows who the murderer is, he accuses him. If he's right the murderer must now confess. If not, he goes free.

Winking

An ideal game for flirtatious males and females from seven to 70. Make a circle with chairs, all facing inward (kitchen or dining room chairs are best). Place a male behind each chair and a female on all but one. The males may let their hands rest on the backs of the chairs, but not (officially) on any part of the female. The object of the game is for the man or boy behind the empty chair to acquire a girl or woman and for all the other men to prevent him from succeeding. The solitary male winks at one of the females who must then try and leave her chair to join him while her partner tries to prevent her. (I don't know what the earnest young sociologist would make of *this* game). She can only leave her chair if her partner's hands are not on her shoulders. If she succeeds in escaping, the abandoned partner becomes the winker. The art of the game lies in the single male's ability to wink so slightly as to not be noticed by the other men, or to take the possessive males by surprise by using distracting tactics. When all the females have had their share of winking, roles are reversed.

Tableaux vivants

Rig up some sheets as a backcloth. Give the children plenty of dressing up clothes and props and repair to another part of the house. The children have to illustrate a carol, Christmas story, well-known play, song or book in a single tableau, with absolutely no talking or movement allowed once the stage has been set. To quote from Cassell: "The performers have to remain perfectly silent, looking rather than speaking their thoughts; proclaiming by the attitude in which they place themselves, and by their countenances, the tale they have to tell". It is a real test of stamina as the children must remain static until the audience has recognized the scene. Well done, the spectacle can provoke the kind of lump in the throat you feel when you hear angelic choirboys in sonic flight and have to pinch yourself to remember they are really horrid little brats.

Consequences

My family and close friends still rate this the most popular mood-lifter, guaranteed to raise a laugh among the grumpiest. Everyone is given a piece of paper, longer than it is wide, at the top of which they write a man's name (it can be a friend, famous personality, fictional character or even a male animal); the paper is then folded down to hide the name and the paper passed to the person on the left. A female's name is then written, paper folded and passed on; then where they met; what he said to her; what she said to him; what he gave her; what she gave him; what the consequences were; what the world said. After the last entry the folded paper is passed to your neighbour and each player takes it in turn to read his out, keeping it folded until the last minute.

Botticelli

This is really a game for adults or very well-read children, beloved by all those who fancy themselves as untried Mastermind or University Challenge contestants. It can prove disastrous if you pretend to an erudition you do not possess or take the game too seriously. One player declares to the rest that his initials are, for example, W.G. In turn, each player then asks his questions about someone bearing these initials – the more obscure the question the better. So for example, one might say: "Were you 189 not out for Single v Married of England?" If the player being questioned does not answer "No, I am not W.G.Grace" the questioner is entitled to a free question. These consist of questions such as: Are you alive or dead? Fact or fiction? Male or female? AD or BC?, progressing to more particular enquiries such as: Are you of royal blood, connected with the Arts? and so on. Once the person the questioner was thinking of has been ruled out by the answer to a free question, he must think of another quickly or pass. So if you were planning to ask W.G. "Did your sadistic young characters hunt The Beast?" and you discovered as the result of a free question that W.G. was born before 1800, you would have to think again. Once you feel sure of W.G.'s identity you may ask him directly if he is such and such a person. If wrong, you lose a turn. If right, you become the next candidate for questioning.

Definitions

Armed with *The Shorter Oxford Dictionary* (*in extremis* lesser volumes will do), the question master reads out the definition of a word, as for example "of, pertaining to, or of the nature of a quicksand" and one or all of the players has to write down the word so defined (in this case, as you all know, "syrtic"). The advantage of choosing a different definition for each person is that you can gear each to the individual's age and in the process improve your own vocabulary and the children's and knock spots off know-it-alls. As a variation you can read out several definitions, then give the word described by one of these and ask the players to chose the correct definition. The person with the highest number of correct definitions wins.

Hands up (otherwise known as Up, Jenkins)

Two teams sit on opposite sides of a table. One team passes a coin under the table until the other team orders "Hands up" or "Up, Jenkins", when all hands, clenched as fists, must be held a few inches above the table. At the command "Hands down" or "Down, Jenkins", hands are slapped flat on the table, palms down. One of the opposing team then has to decide which player has the coin. When he has decided, he calls "Hands open" or "Tip it" to the suspected person. If right, he scores a point, if wrong he can continue ordering hands open to find the coin, or forfeit. To complicate the game, the inquisitive team may order "Hands forward" or "Creepy crawlies" before making a final guess. When this command is given, all hands in the team with the coin must advance a few inches across the table in a crab-like movement, the object being to see or hear the coin.




Pictures from Victorian Parlour Games for Today by Patrick Beaver (Peter Davies)

Shadow Buff

Played with great relish by Victorian families. You need a big room, bright lamp, white sheet, low stool or chair and props – false noses, hats, pipes, wigs. Fix the largest white sheet you can find across one end of the room; place a table a few feet in front of it on which you centre a bright lamp (turn all other lights out); put the low stool or chair between table and sheet, but nearer the sheet; let the judge, or guest of honour sit on the chair facing the sheet. Now the rest of you, suitably disguised, pass behind the chair so that your shadows fall on the sheet. The judge must decide who is who – far harder than you'd think.

Holiday outings

BARBICAN HOLIDAY EVENTS
Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (638 5403). Tues, Thurs and Fri
Free Punch and Judy shows on Tues at 12.15pm, 1pm and 1.30pm. Demonstration of hand-bell ringing by a group from Texas on Wed, 5.30pm-7.30pm. Special children's concert of Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* and Howard Blake's *The Snowman*, with Bernard Cribbins as narrator (tickets £3).

DESIGN AN ARMY POSTAGE STAMP
National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 (730 0717). Tues to Dec 31, Jan 2-15, Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2pm-5.30pm. Free
Prizes will be awarded for the best design, based on museum exhibits (age limit 18 years).

GEOLOGICAL EVENTS
Geological Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 (589 3444). Wed to Dec 31 at 2.30pm. Free
On Wed, a film about volcanoes; on Thurs, a demonstration and talk for eight – 12-year-olds; on Fri, a talk on the Grand Canyon; on Dec 31, "Ask a Geologist" – what he is.

MEET THE ARTIST
National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (839 3321). Wed, Thurs, Fri and Jan 3-6 at 2.30pm. Free
A performance for children given by a "reincarnation" of Holbein in his studio. Queue for tickets 30 minutes before each performance, preference given to eight – 11-year-olds.

MECCANO SHOW
London Transport Museum, The Flower Market, Covent Garden, London WC2 (379 6344). Tues to Jan 2, 10am-6pm (last admission 5.15pm). Adults £1.80, children 90p
Special Meccano exhibition with many working models, including Stephenson's Rocket and a West Ham tram, Austin 7.

HORNIMAN CLUB
Horniman Museum, Forest Hill, London SE23 (699 1872). Wed to Dec 31, Jan 3-7, 10.30am-1.30pm. Free
At the Horniman club for children of eight and over, a selection of art and craft activities based on the museum's collection. Tickets to first 20 children through.

Collecting

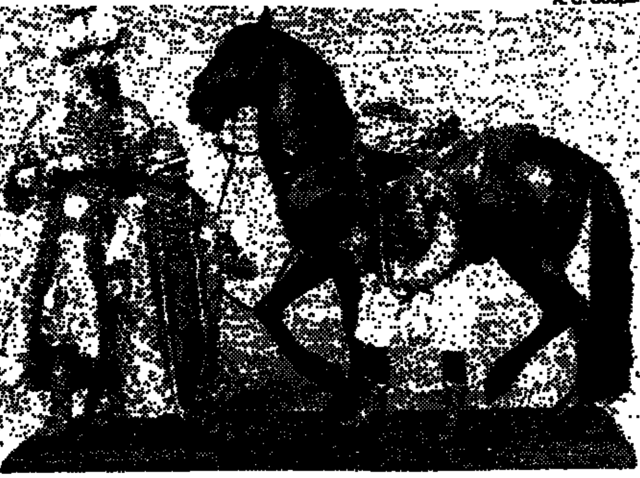
Treasures from the Christmas story

The Christmas crib, with its little figures of the Holy Family, the ox and ass, the shepherds and kings, nowadays takes an honoured place amongst the Christmas decorations at infant schools and parish churches. It derives from a centuries-old tradition and the little figures that in former times delighted adults and children alike have become valuable antiques.

With patience collectors may seek out enough eighteenth-century figures to put together a crib of their own. Alternatively the finely carved or moulded figures can be displayed as sculpture in their own right.

The first three-dimensional rendering of the nativity, made up of separate stone figures, was that erected by Arnolfo di Cambio in the church of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome in 1291. The church had a special association with the scene since its most treasured relic was a splinter from the crib (later demonstrated to be a fake).

A. C. Cooper



Neapolitan nativity: Group from an eighteenth-century crib

But the history of cribs as a popular art form, rather than as church sculpture, is generally traced back to St. Francis of Assisi. In 1223 he erected a special manger for Christmas, complete with real hay and live animals. It was to remind him of the reality of the Christmas story. There were no figures of the Holy Family in this "crib", but as they celebrated Christmas in the stable, fellow-monk Giovanni Vellita had a vision of the Christ child in St Francis's arms.

St Francis explained his purpose in these words: "I want to see it as it was, with my own eyes, a child sleeping on the hay in a manager, between an ox and an ass." And it is in this spirit that cribs have been built ever since.

To underline the reality for the illiterate believer the figures were dressed in contemporary fashions while numerous *genre* features were added: markets, shops, farms and villages peopled with realistic figures.

References to Christmas cribs begin to appear in Italian and German literature in the sixteenth century. They were used by Franciscan and Jesuit missionaries and rapidly achieved an extraordinary geographic spread. In 1595 the Jesuits are recorded as making a crib in Japan; in 1599 the Christmas crib at Lahore in India attracted between 3,000 and 4,000 visitors; in 1642 a Jesuit father erected the first crib in Canada for the Indian tribes.

The late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, however, saw the real flowering of the Christmas crib and it is from this period that cribs and crib figures are easily available to collectors today, though prices in this, as in other fields, are moving rapidly upwards.

The geographic spread of crib building is a curiosity. There is no long tradition in England or Ireland and in France the tradition is limited to Provence. However, crib building began and flourished in Italy, particularly in Naples and Sicily. From there it was enthusiastically taken up in Austria, the Tyrol, Southern Germany and Poland. Northern Europe otherwise remained untouched but it was taken up in Spain and Portugal and exported from there to South America.

Neapolitan cribs whose golden era ran from around 1720 to 1790 are the most famous and the most abundantly available. Charles III, the Bourbon king of Naples, was an enthusiast and the inaugration of his enormous *presepio* (or crib) on Christmas eve was an important court function. It was a theatrical scene with mountains, villages, markets and several thousand figures in all.

Eighteenth century Neapolitan crib figures are sold regularly by Sotheby's and Christie's. The head is normally painted terracotta and there are wooden hands and feet; the standard of modelling and carving and the life-like effects achieved are extraordinary. The bodies are generally built on a wire frame wrapped securely with straw or cloth. Finally, the figures are dressed in traditional peasant costume or the latest court fashions, according to their role.

Until Christie's sold the figures from an exceptionally fine crib in April 1982, prices had generally run in the £30 to £100 bracket for an individual figure; now it tends to be nearer £200-£300 for a really attractive piece, but a search around antique shops should uncover a few examples at the old prices.

Geraldine Norman

Chess

Scrooge's dickens of a dream

It was Christmas Eve, 1850, and Ebenezer Scrooge was dreaming again. Perhaps the gruel he had had for supper was too rich – or else it was because of the disagreeable day he had had. For some reason or other, people seemed to take him for a philanthropist of the foolish order of the brothers Cheeryble, the idiots who had invested in gilt-edged stock and then returned interest plus capital appreciation to the government, saying that its need was greater than theirs.

It was all the fault of that popular novelist who, some seven years ago, had published a piece dripping with sentimental pathos entitled *A Christmas Carol* purporting to describe the change of character brought about by nocturnal visitations.

What the dickens was the writer's name? Charles something or other. Trollope? That did not sound right. Thackeray perhaps? Yes, that seemed more likely.

At all events, ever since that accursed *Carol*, there had been a succession of mendicants, charitable institutions and the like applying to him for help. Today, for instance, on arriving at his counting-house in the City, he had found a certain Howard Staunton, a literary chessmaster who made a precarious living from chess and writing about Shakespeare.

He was, it seems, asking for subscriptions towards an international chess tournament to be held in London in 1851.

Whoever heard of such a ridiculous idea? He had just received a donation of one shilling from Bob Cratchit; but he, Ebenezer, was not quite such a fool. As for Bob Cratchit, if he could afford to contribute a fifteenth of his wages, then in future a shilling would be deducted from his weekly wages in the hope he would make appropriate use of the remaining 14 shillings.

But now he was dreaming again, and the ghost of Christmas Yet to Come was talking to him about London, 1851.

"It's a wonderful occasion with great players from all over Europe. Players from Austria, France, Germany, Hungary and all the leading British players. There was even going to be a player from Russia – Major Jaenisch – but he will come too late for the tournament."

"In fact", and here the spectre took on a rather ominous red shade, "the Russians, powerful players though they were, are, and will be, were not exactly noted for their reliability. For example, in the year 1983, you will find them instructing two of their grandmasters, Psakhis and Beljavsky, that they are going to play at Hastings and then, only a few weeks before the tournament, informing the Hastings organizers indirectly that no players are to be sent them.

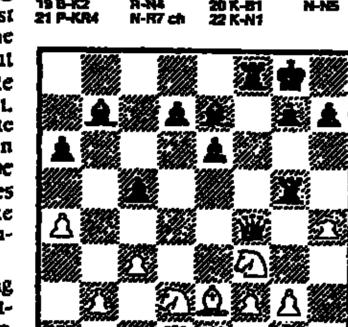
"Many fine games are being played at London, 1851. In particular one between the Hungarian, Szen, and the German, Adolf Anderssen. Here is the game."

White, Szen. Black, Anderssen. Sicilian Defence.

1	P-K4	P-QB4	2	N-KB3	N-QB3
3	N-B3	P-K3	4	B-B4	P-QR3
5	P-QR4	KN-K2	6	Q-K2	N-N3
7	P-Q3	B-K2	8	B-K3	O-O
9	O-O	P-B4	10	PxP	RxP
11	N-N1				

"*Reculer pour mieux sauter*" said the ghost, translating for Ebenezer's benefit, "stepping back in order to jump the better"; but Scrooge, who had been a good player in his youth, wondered why White did not play 11 P-Q4 instead of wasting so much time with his QN.

11	....	P-QN3	12	P-B3	B-N2
13	QN-Q2	Q-B2	14	P-Q4	N-B5
15	Q-Q1	QR-KB1	16	PxP	PxP
17	BxN	QxB	18	R-K1	N-K4
19	B-K2	R-N4	20	K-B1	N-N5
21	P-KR4	N-R7 ch	22	K-N1	



"Here", said the vision, becoming more shadowy and indistinct, "Anderssen played a brilliant combination and mated White after another 9 moves. He played . . ." and then the figure disappeared. Ebenezer awoke and found himself staring at the wall.

Can you work out what was played? Ebenezer, who had been a strong player in his youth when he invented the saying "Look after the pawns and the King will take care of itself", did in fact manage to do so and was so happy at discovering a sort of second youth that he gave quite a lot of money towards the event, in which he played under the unlikely alias of Marmaduke Wyvill MP. He got as far as the final where he was beaten by Anderssen.

For those who have not Ebenezer's skill I shall give the continuation of the game next week.

Harry Golombek

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today

LONDON TOURIST INFORMATION: The London Tourist Board's information services are operating today at Victoria, Harrods and Heathrow; and on Boxing Day at Victoria, Heathrow and the special telephone line 01-730 3488. There is also a "What's On" recorded information service 24 hours a day on 01-246 8041.

KING'S COLLEGE CAROLS: The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols opens with *Once in Royal David's City*, includes the specially commissioned *When Thou Wast Born in Wintertime*, composed by Sir Lennox Berkeley to words by Betty Askwith, and ends with *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*. King's College, Cambridge, at 3pm. The service is being broadcast live on Radio 4.

CINDERELLA: Lionel Blair, Kenneth Connor, Patrick Cargill, Anna Neagle, Paula Wilcox, Victor Spinetti, Jacqueline Redding open today in a lavish production at the Hippodrome, Bristol (0272 299444), at 2.30pm and 7.15pm. Until Mar 3, Mon-Sat at 7.15pm; matinées Mon-Sat at 2.30pm until Jan 7, then on various days at 2.30pm.

BABES IN THE WOOD: Terry Scott, Norman Vaughan, Bernard Bresslaw, Dilys Watling, Leon Greene. Opens today at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth (0752 669595) at 7.30pm. Until Jan 28, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinées on many days at 2.30pm.

Christmas Day

CHRISTMAS DAY: To stimulate an appetite for the turkey, bathers can take a morning swim in the Serpentine, Hyde Park; in front of the Royal Victoria Hotel at Hastings, at 10am; or on Albion Beach, near the Palace Pier, Brighton, at 11am.

THE QUEEN'S CHRISTMAS BROADCAST: The fifty-first royal Christmas broadcast since King George V started the tradition in 1932 can be heard first on Radio 4 at 9.30am. It is then on BBC1 and ITV at 3pm; and on BBC2 at 9.50pm, with subtitles and signs for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Boxing Day

RACING AT KEMPTON PARK: The King George VI Chase over three miles is today's highlight, with trainer Michael Dickinson going for his fifth winner in the last six years (on the other occasion the race was called off because of frost). His runners include Silver Buck, twice successful in the past, and Wayward Lad, the winner last year. The race starts at 2.15pm and is being covered live on ITV.

LENNY HENRY CHRISTMAS PARTY: The popular black television comedian is having a short run of comedy and variety performances at the Winter Gardens, Bournemouth (0202 296646). Opens today at 2.30pm. Until Dec 31, Mon-Sat at 8pm (not Dec 31); matinées today, Tues and Dec 31 at 2.30pm.

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK: Lulu heads a cast including Bonnie Langford, Jeremy Beadle, Tony Brandon, George Sewell, Henry McGee, Ellen Thomas at Lewisham Concert Hall, Rushey Green, Catford, London SE6 (690 3431). Opens today at 2.30pm. Until Jan 28, Mon-Sat at 2.30pm.

Holiday Tuesday

KRULL: Pour all Hollywood's recent fantasy adventures into a cauldron, stir very slowly and you might come up with Peter Yates's new film. Ken Marshall stars as Prince Colwyn, anxious to destroy the Hideous Slayers; Lysette Anthony is his lady fair. Cert PG. Classic Chelsea (01-352 5096), Odeon Kensington (01-602 6644), Odeon Leicester Square (01-930 6111), and on national release.

COWARD AT CHRISTMAS: A new production of *Blithe Spirit*, with Paul Eddington, Julia McKenzie, Anna Massey and Peggy Mount, as Madame Arcati, is the first of five Noël Coward plays being broadcast on Radio 4 this week (8-9.30pm). The others are *Hay Fever*, with Peggy Ashcroft (Wed 8pm); *Brief Encounter*, with Ian Holm and Cheryl Campbell (Thurs 3.20); *Private Lives*, with Paul Scofield and Patricia Routledge (Thurs 8pm); and *Design For Living*, with Anna Massey (Fri 8pm).



There's a little bit o' Stanley Holloway on BBC 1 (Wed)

Wednesday

LONDON'S PRIDE: The first of two programmes on the long and extraordinarily varied career of the popular entertainer Stanley Holloway, who died in January 1982 at the age of 91. His most famous role was probably Alfred Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*, but he was also a star of the Ealing comedies, Shakespearean actor and master of the comic monologue. BBC1, 3.30-4.20pm. The second programme, *Wiv a Little Bit o' Luck*, is at the same time tomorrow.

CONVERSATIONS WITH DOMINGO: Placido Domingo, the great Spanish tenor, talks about his career to Daniel Snowman (who is writing a book about him) in the first of two programmes. Radio 4, 10.30-11pm.

Thursday

PADDY IN HIS WELLIES: Jokes about the Irish are not a creation of the Two Ronnies but go back 800 years or more. Why the Irish in particular should be such a consistent butt for humour is examined by Denys Hawthorne. Radio 4, noon-12.30pm.

OPERA ON FILM: Paul Czinner's film of Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*, (today and Jan 2) starring Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, opens a short season of four films, with Dr Schwarzkopf discussing tonight's screening during the interval. To follow are Joseph Losey's version of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* (tomorrow and Jan 1); Verdi's *Otello*, conducted by Herbert von Karajan (Jan 3); and a Soviet film of Mussorgsky's *Khovanshchina*, conducted by Yevgeny Svetlanov. Queen Elizabeth Hall, London SE1 (01-928 3191) at 6pm. Tickets £2.50.

Friday

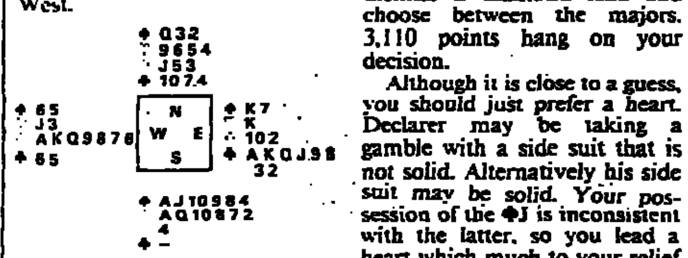
WATERS OF THE MOON: New television production of N.C. Hunter's play about the disruption of the quiet Christmas routine of a Devon hotel by a rich family from London who arrive suddenly when their Rolls-Royce breaks down and are marooned by a snowdrift. Penelope Keith leads the interlopers and Virginia McKenna is the widow who refuses to fall under their spell. BBC1, 9-10.40pm.

Bridge

Hair-raising opportunity for blood and thunder

Some players adore freaks, with the huge swings and enormous penalties they invariably entail. For a variety of reasons I seldom write about them. But this week is dedicated to the blood and thunder merchants. Both the hands I shall describe occurred at high stake rubber bridge, which provides an extra piquancy for those who prefer champagne to match points.

Rubber Bridge. Love all. Dealer West.



North: ♠ Q32 ♥ 9654 ♦ J53 ♣ 1074
West: ♠ 65 ♥ J3 ♦ AKQ9876 ♣ 65
East: ♠ K7 ♥ K ♦ 102 ♣ AKQJ9832
South: ♠ AJ10984 ♥ AQ10872 ♦ 4 ♣ –

W	N	E	S
No	No	3NT	4♠
5D	No	5NT	?

South was my friend Alfred Huberman, who as a rear-gunner in the last war is accustomed to these hair-raising situations. Showing me his hand and giving me the bidding so far, he asked what I would do at that point. Sensing that if I doubled the opening lead would prove critical, I opted for six hearts where I would be exposed to less flak.

Characteristically, Huberman elected to double five no trumps and lead the Ace of hearts. He ensured that North took the fourth round of hearts and the spade switch enabled the defence to take the first 12 tricks. 1,900 to North-South.

"Never mind, Jeremy", Huberman said affably, "you would have made six hearts, provided North doesn't give you preference, or worse, East saves in seven clubs, which would have yielded a mere 200."

The next hand, which I enjoyed rather more, I will present as a lead problem. As West, you hold:

♠ J65 ♥ 874 ♦ AKJ73 ♣ 42

At game all your partner East deals, and you listen to this remarkable bidding:

W	N	E	S
–	–	No	7♣
No	No	Double	Redble
No	No	No	–

Obviously an anxious moment. Partner, who has passed, is asking you to find an unusual lead. Presumably he has a void. On that basis, you dismiss a diamond lead and choose between the majors. 3,110 points hang on your decision.

Although it is close to a guess, you should just prefer a heart. Declarer may be taking a gamble with a side suit that is not solid. Alternatively his side suit may be solid. Your possession of the ♠J is inconsistent with the latter, so you lead a heart which much to your relief your partner ruffs.

This was the full hand:

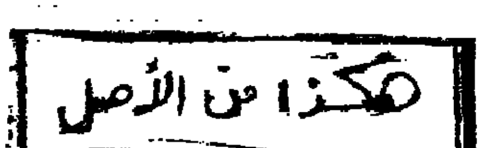
North: ♠ AKQ108 ♥ J106532 ♦ 84 ♣ –
West: ♠ J65 ♥ 874 ♦ AKJ73 ♣ 42
East: ♠ 97432 ♥ – ♦ Q109652 ♣ 73
South: ♠ – ♥ AKQ9 ♦ – ♣ AKQJ109865

What did West lead in real life? The King of Diamonds. And why did I enjoy this hand more than the first? I was South.

● *The English Bridge Union Diary*, price £1.95, obtainable from the EBU, 15B High Street, Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 2BL, contains dates of forthcoming important events, an explanation of the master points scheme and some useful guidelines on the decisions of the rules and ethics committee.

The Bridge Players Acol Diary is compiled and distributed by Mrs Rhoda Lederer, 5 Ellis Avenue, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, SL9 9UA, in a variety of colours, price £2 (£1.90 without pencil). It contains a valuable summary of the Acol system as well as much useful bridge information.

Jeremy Flint



THE TIMES
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

London dealers ready to venture forth

The Stock Exchange Council has taken another step toward the brave new world of negotiated brokers' commissions and dual capacity with a notice containing rules for International Dealers (IDs). They will make their overdue entry in March: arguably the absence of such beings has already cost the London market many millions of turnover since the abolition of foreign exchange controls in November 1979.

For good reasons – they include cost as well as expertise – British financial institutions have channelled their de-restricted appetite for overseas stocks through American and Japanese brokers. If London is to build a reputation as an international stock market, it needs its IDs dealing as freely as possible in overseas securities, as much as it needs a greater involvement here by American and Japanese brokers who see the freedom American pension funds have been given to invest abroad as a huge new business opportunity.

The Stock Exchange Council is treading warily, endeavouring to keep IDs at arm's length from the Stock Exchange proper and at the same time to keep them on a tight rein.

"In recognition of the fact that IDs will be dealing in an international market largely over the telephone and with professional counterparties," the noice says, "they should not be permitted to have a presence on the floor."

They will be limited liability companies, which may be owned by one member firm, or a consortium of firms, which may be made up of broking firms, jobbing firms and non-member firms (a gesture to London's new spirit of internationalism) provided a member or members have more than 50 per cent of the equity. An ID may deal only as a principal, ie as if it were a true blue London jobber, and as it is a jobber by another name its dealing book is free from the constraints of stamp duty. There is a word of caution:

"As an ID will be dealing as a principal, care must be taken to ensure that all transactions are undertaken only with professional or more sophisticated private investors. The council believes that most private clients are best served by employing a broker as a agent, required to deal in the best interests of his clients."

It is worth emphasizing that the Stock Exchange Compensation Fund "will not normally cover transactions or any other activity by an ID." Nontheless there might be losses that could not be entirely ignored by the Stock Exchange: "The discretionary nature of the Fund may allow compensation in exceptional circumstances."

Other rules seem pretty strict. IDs will have to maintain at all times a minumum liquidity margin of £500,000. A firm wanting to set up an ID must first submit to the Council "a detailed business plan showing the capital structure and arrangements for management, administration, accounting and internal control. Amember firm which deals with an ID must report "for surveillance purposes" all bargains to the Official Lists Office as soon as possible.

ID's will deal on a cash against delivery basis and are not able to take deposits or deal on margin. IDs are not allowed to become members of overseas stock exchanges.

The Council has also made it a rule that "Unless the Council otherwise decides, the censure, suspension, or expulsion of an International Dealer shall operate also as the censure, suspension, or explusion of all its Member Directors."

Although ID's may deal or settle in any currency, they will not be allowed to trade in American Deposiory Receipts, issued by more and more leading "blue chip" copanies to enable financial insitutions to avoid stamp duty by buying stock through New York.

While the Council has enabled member firms to begin genuine international businesses, they are clearly on very short strings. Having said that ambitious London jobbers like Smith Brothers, in harness with NM Rothschild, would admit that the potential for a skilled, well financed ID is great.

Courtaulds into the light

Courtaulds has had four years of gruelling and necessary rationalization under the chairmanship of 43-year-old Mr Christopher Hogg. If penny pinching was the watch word it may longer be so, judge by the five-for-three share exchange the reviving textile company is offering for the 9.2 million shares (12.2 per cent) it does not own in International Paint.

The terms put a value on International Paint of £154.6m or 45 per cent of the £344m at which the market values Courtaulds. In the year to the end of March, International Paint accounted for only 17 per cent of group sales, 28 per cent of trading profits and 22 per cent of capital employed.

In the first half of the present trading year, International Paint's profit contribution shrunk again in the face of declining world demand for industrial paints.

It has not always been so. Two years ago, International Paint was worth as much in market capitalization as the whole of Courtaulds.

It still took courage to put faith and money in Hogg whose reputation was made at Mr George Brown's Industrial Reorganisation Corporation and who rode to the office on a bicycle and preferred a Volkswagen Beetle to any other car. But he has succeded where others might have qualified at the undertaking. Courtaulds again is reasonably profitable, though it is still searching for the higher technology profile that will guarantee a viable future.

When the company raised £68m with a right issue last May, it hoped to make an acquisition in speciality chemicals in the US. The board had even appointed a director, Mr Ed Barr, to travel the length of the land to find one. But the strength of US equity markets and the dollar itself has more or less ruled out such ambitions for the moment.

In the light of this frustration, the full consolidation of International Paint, which Mr Hogg says is the only paint of Courtaulds at present making regular technical breakthroughs, looks the right move.

GM–Toyota agreement could lead to wave of mergers

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The United States Federal Trade Commission has tentatively approved a joint production agreement between General Motors and Toyota in a decision regarded as one of the most sweeping revisions of United States antitrust laws in more than a decade.

By a close three-to-two vote, the commission ruled that the two car companies could jointly build more than 250,000 Japanese-designed small cars at a GM plant at Fremont, California, without violating American antitrust laws.

The decision has cleared the way for mergers among huge international corporations which have avoided such ventures in the past for fear of running foul of strict American antitrust laws.

Almost immediately, GM's domestic competitors announced that they would fight the decision on the grounds that a joint venture between GM, the world's largest car company, and Toyota, the third largest, clearly violated American law.

Mr Lee Iococca, chairman of Chrysler, said "After this decision, what kind of deal will be off-limits?" He vowed to fight the ruling over the next 60 days in the courts and through possible action in Congress.

"It's not right and I will do everything in my power to see that the American public gets a clear picture of just how wrong it is."

Ford also said it would fight the decision.

The decision was approved late on Thursday after weeks of negotiations in which the commission tried to meet widespread criticismof the venture by setting strict limits and terms on the deal. It was forced to put off at least two planned votes as the negotiations bragged on.

But finally, the commission majority agreed to a venture which would allow the makers to begin producing more than 250,000 cars a year, based on the Toyota Corolla, for sales in the US for 12 years beginning in 1985.

At a later date, GM could being producing additional cars for Toyota but would not be allowed to share in these profits or be privy to secret information from Toyota on the additional car models.

The commission, which is expeted to approve the decision formally after a 60-day public comment period, also stipulated that only information concerning the joint venture could be exchanged.

Mr Roger Smith, GM chairman, said in response to the criticism that he was confident the courts would rule in favour of the venture because of the backing it has recieived from the commission.

Mr James Miller, chairman of the commmission said the majority had approved the venture because it would benefit the American public by increasing the supply of low-cost small cars and would give GM an opportunity to learn more cost-efficient production methods from Toyota.

Dee buys 20 supermarkets

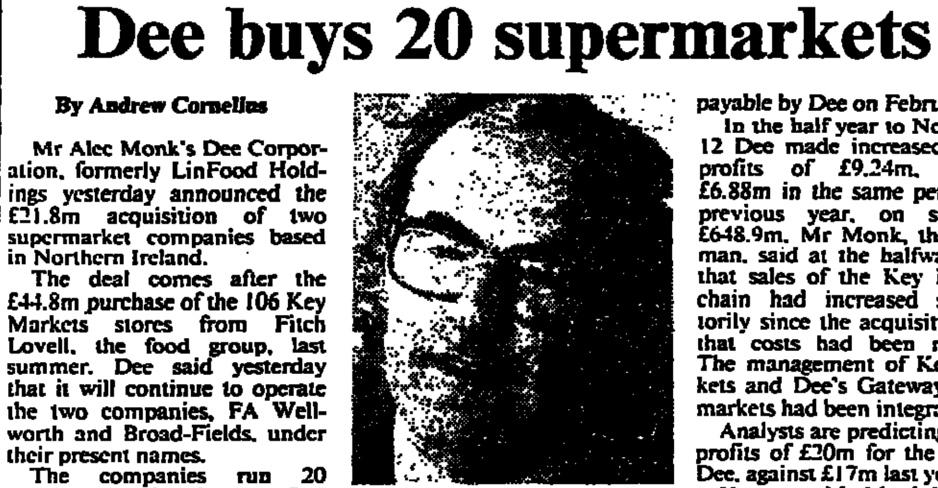
By Andrew Cornelius

Mr Alec Monk's Dee Corporation, formerly LinFood Holdings yesterday announced the £21.8m acquisition of two supermarket companies based in Northern Ireland.

The deal comes after the £44.8m purchase of the 106 Key Markets stores from Fitch Lovell, the food group, last summer. Dee said yesterday that it will continue to operate the two companies, FA Wellworth and Broad-Fields, under their present names.

The companies run 20 supermarkets in Northern Ireland with a total selling area of 280,000 sq ft. In the year to last January 31 they made combined pretax profits of £4.68m.

Pretax profits in the year to January 31, 1984, are likely to be higher. The net assets of the two companies is £17.42m.



Alec Monk: £21.8m expansion in Northern Ireland

The acquisition will be funded by the issue of 5.7 million Dee ordinary shares. Of these, 1.4 millions will be placed and will carry the right to the interim dividend of 7p payable by Dee on February 28.

In the half year to November 12 Dee made increased pretax profits of £9.24m, against £6.88m in the same period the previous year, on sales of £648.9m. Mr Monk, the chairman, said at the halfway stage that sales of the Key Markets chain had increased satisfactorily since the acquisition and that costs had been reduced. The management of Key Markets and Dee's Gateway supermarkets had been integrated.

Analysts are predicting pretax profits of £20m for the year at Dee, against £17m last year.

However, Mr Monk has said that it would take at least three years for the full benefits to be obtained from the merger of the Key Markets and Dee businesses.

Mr Monk is still dissatisfied about the margins he is achieving on sales.

Sketchley to expand in N America

By Vivien Goldsmith

Sketchley is planning to buy an American nappy service and a Canadian dry cleaning chain which will tip the balance of its business to being mainly overseas.

Sales of the laundry group used to be 40/60 between overseas and home but if the two deals go through the balance will be 60/40 the other way.

Sketchley will pay £9.09m for the nappy service division of Blessings Corporations of Piscataway, New Jersey. This service rents nappies to mothers at home, hospitals and nursing homes in 23 cities

In the year to January, 1983, it made an operating profit of £1.61m

A Canadian subsidiary has been set up by Sketchley to buy the Embassy Cleaners chain of 117 dry cleaners from Imasco Retail for £4.5m. The chain in Toronto and Southern Ontario made pretax profits of £438,000 in the year to April 1983

The American deal will be financed by a medium-term loan and cash, and the Canadian one by cash plus a seven year term loan facility in Canada.

Mr Thomas Adam, group finance director, said the company's long-term aim was to have its business split equally between home and overseas sales.

Eagle Star bids still in balance

By Our Financial Staff

The bidding for Eagle Star Holdings was left in the balance last night as the West German insurer, Allianz Versicherungs, reported that it had received acceptances from shareholders representing 0.01 per cent of Eagle's shares.

The acceptances take the Allianz stake in Eagle to 30.01 per cent, ahead of the 4.30pm deadline on December 30 set by the Takeover Panel for the final bids to be made.

Last night, there was no indication of any progress in the talks between Allianz and BAT Industries who are competing to win control of Eagle Star. Both bidders have made indentical 675p per share bids for Eagle worth £934m.

Although the offers are identical, Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle Star, favours the BAT bid. He argues that BAT would make a better parent than Allianz and that the BAT offer is better because there is a paper alternative.

If there is no progress in the discussions between Allianz and BAT over resolving the battle for control of Eagle Star the City's biggest takeover battle is likely to be decided by a one-day auction on December 30.

THE BIDDING FOR EAGLE STAR

Date	Bidder	Price	Value
			For 30%
1.6.81	Allianz	290p	stake
19.10.83	Allianz	500p	£692m
2.11.83	BAT	575p	£798m
28.11.83	Allianz	650p	£900m
28.11.83	BAT	660p	£914
14.12.83	Allianz	665p	£920m
14.12.83	BAT	675p	£934m
22.12.83	Allienz	675p	£934

Virani lifts Belhaven stake

By Our Financial Staff

Virani Group UK, the privately-owned trading company of Mr Nazmu Virani, yesterday announced the purchase of 750,000 Belhaven Brewery shares taking its stake to 27.31 per cent or 5,938,200 shares.

Recently, Mr Ronnie Aitken, who joined the company as its fifth chairman in 1979, resigned after a disagreement with the joint chairman, Mr Eric Morley, over the proposed sale of Belhaven hotels to Mr Virani.

Last August, Belhaven announced that it had agreed to acquire four former British Rail hotels in Scotland from Virani. Virani was then going to lease the hotels back and guarantee Belhaven an outlet for its beer. The deal also included the sale to Virani of a Belhaven hotel in Spain for £1.4m.

That would have left Mr Virani with a substantially increased equity stake but the deal has now been put into "abeyance".

On the Belhaven side, it appears that separate bids for the hotel are being taken.

Prices drift lower

With the stock market closing for Christmas at lunchtime yesterday, investors showed little enthusiasm to open up new positions and many decided to postpone decisions until the New Year.

Most of the business was completed after the first hour and prices were left to drift lower because of lack of support. The *FT* Index, after its record-breaking run closed 1.2 points lower at 775.0.

Gilts reflected a firmer pound and managed to hold on to early leads of up to 25p at the longer end of the market in thin trade.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 775.0 down 1.2
FT Gilts: 83.15 up 0.01
FT All Share: 469.24 down 0.60
Bargains: N/A
Datastream USM Leaders Index:95.70 up 0.1
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1250.91 down 2.75
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9,684 17 down 25.25
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 867.30 up 3.74
Amsterdam:157.8 up 0.2
Sydney: AO Index 762.2 up 1.0
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1031.7 down 2.7
Brussels: General Index 136.44 up 0.47
Paris: CAC Index 153.8 up 0.9
Zurich: SKA General 312.80 unchanged

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling
$1.4330 up 55pts
Index 82.5 up 0.2
DM 3.9500 down 0.0025
FrF 12.0850 up 0.02
Yen 335 up 1.0
Dollar
Index 130.3 down 0.2
DM 2.7565 down 0.0010
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling $1.4327
Dollar DM 2.7580
INTERNATIONAL
ECU£0.571481
SDR£0.728708

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 9
3 month interbank 9 7/16-9 3/8
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10 1/4-10 3/8
3 month DM 6 5/16-6 3/16
3 month Fr F13 3/16-13 9/16

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am $379.50 pm –
close $379.75-380.50 (£265.50-266)
New York latest: $380.50
Krugerrand* (per coin):
$391.50-393 (£273.75-274.75)
Sovereigns* (new):
$89.25-90.25 (£62.25-63)
*Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stenhouse steps up bid fight

The board of Stenhouse Holdings has urged its shareholders not to accept the £53m takeover attempt by its 49 per cent owned Canadian subsidiary Reed Stenhouse. This follows the announcemet by Reed Stenhouse Holdings shareholders for its offer of one Reed Stenhouse share, plus 20p cash, for every five Stenhouse Holdings shares.

The Stenhouse Holdings board is opposing the bid on the ground that if favours the Canadian shareholders in Reed Stenhouse at the expense of Stenhouse Holdings shareholders. The board said that the 36.5 per cent acceptance level includes prior commitments from Continental Corporation of New York which holds 20 per cent of the shares and the 5.2 per cent holding of the Reed Stenhouse Voluntary Equity Scheme.

This means that acceptances from other shareholders totalled only 11.3 per cent, according to the Stenhouse Holdings board.

● **Allied Irish** bank announced yesterday the first step in its £99m campaign to take over First Maryland Bancorp, of the United States. The bank has taken a 43 per cent stake for an undisclosed sum and said it will be purchasing more shares over the next four years to bring its holding to more than 50 per cent.

● **British Airways** and China's National Airline have agreed on a plan breaking the Chinese carrier's monopoly on the Peking-Hongkong route.

● **Bankruptcy proceedings** for Dunlop's French subsidiary are likely to remain suspended in the new year to keep its factories operating while talks about a possible rescue package continue.

WALL STREET

Share prices retreat in moderate trading

New York (APH Dow Jones).– Share prices were drifting lower in moderate, early trading on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down by 2.75 to 1250.91.

Declines were nearly 5-to-4 ahead of rising stocks.

International Business Machines 123⅜, up ¾. **Teledyne**, 161⅛, off ¼. **Atlantic Richfield** 41⅞, ⅛ lower, **Dun & Bradstreet**, 60½ down 1, **Great Northern Nekoosa**, 60⅝, off 1⅛. **General Electric**, 58⅛, off ⅜ and **General Motors**, 73⅞, up ⅛.

Grumman fell 4¼ to 26. On Thursday, the company forecast that 1984 earnings would be about this year's expected $3.80 to $3.90 a share. Net income in 1982, from continued operations, was $3.35 a share.

Salomon Brothers and Bear Stearns have dropped Grumman from their buy lists.

Monsanto is off 2 at 105¼, **Knight-Ridder**, 25⅛ up ⅞, **CSX**, 25½, up ⅜, **AMR**, 36, off ⅜, **Coleco**, 20¼, up ⅝ and **Allegheny Corp**, 63, up 2½.

Mr Ted Webb, senior vice-president at Bull & Bear Group, said: "These extraordinary markets always seem to happen around yearend. Here we have mostly sideways action and little real progress, while people are continuing to do window-dressing."

He noted the huge volume in **American Telephone** and its when-issued stock. They led the most active issues yesterday morning.

Public Service of Indiana and Long Island Lighting – dropped on Thursday on bad news. So the market did not show a clear-cut direction yesterday.

Institutional shareholders baulk at £12m offer

Rift in F Miller takeover

By Wayne Lintott

A conflict has developed in the agreed £12m takeover by Nottingham Manufacturers of fellow Marks and Spencer textile suplier, F Miller (Textiles).

Grieg, Middleton yesterday resigned as joint stockbroker to the Glasgow-based, children's clothing manufacturer, Miller. The broker said that leading institutional shareholders have told them of "their surprise at the low level of the offer."

The all-share, one-for-six, offer values Miller shares at 36p, against a pre-suspension price of 42p and a level ruling in the market of 60p, before reports of prolems at Miller made the shares slip.

The institutional shareholders are Scottish Amicable Life, M G X Nominees, Clydesdale Bank Nominees, Prudential Nominees and NC Lombard Street Nominees.

Between them the institutions, hold 10.1 million shares, equivalent to 30 per cent of the issued equity. Directors of Miller, their families and associated interests, representing 17 per cent, have accepted the offer.

The institutions also expressed concern that what it considered a low offer had been recommended by the board and its advisers, Singer and Friedlander.

The broker said that it will be consulting with the institutional shareholders in F Miller soon to discuss what action will be taken over the offer.

Miller has assets of £5m that include £3m in cash, and has been trading profitably on a regular basis for the last 10 years.

At the time of the agreement, Mr F Miller, the chairman, said that future trading did not look encouraging and that a failure to achieve a desired increase in turnover had put margins under pressure.

However, in October, he said that more design and sales staff were being hired, "to get into more profitable areas and broaden the customer base."

Mr Miller said that the company would not be able to restore former levels of profitability, but as part of a larger group "future prospects should be more secure."

FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

Banking

NatWest efficiency machine in action

Having been accused of bearing a grudge against National Westminster Bank, Christmas being the season of goodwill and all that, it seems the right time to redress the balance. This is a true Christmas tale of astonishing efficiency by NatWest.

Last week, I received a telephone call from a polite young man from the bank who wanted to know if I had used the cash machine at Holborn Hall branch on Friday night. "Yes," I replied, "I had".

"How much did you withdraw and did you have any trouble with the machine", he asked.

I had drawn out £50. And I said: "The only problem I had was that it did not seem to last as long as usual".

But then it never does. You can hardly blame that on the machine.

"Are you sure you took all the money?" he wanted to know. "Yes, I had taken it all, but I must admit I didn't count it", I replied.

Later the same day, the man from the bank rang up again to say that the bank had checked with other customers who had also used the machine and had come to the conclusion that I must be the person who had been underpaid – note that, *UNDERPAID*.

"Have you any idea how much you might have been short", he asked.

Faced with this impossible decision I came to the conclusion that I must have had at least £30 from the machine – a minimum of two £5 notes and two £10 notes.

"Fine", said the polite young man; "we will be crediting your account with £10 if that is all right with you."

I was so astonished, I am not sure whether I remembered to thank him.

Test your recall of saving tips

We hope readers of Family Money pick up many useful money saving tips. Sue Bevan has compiled a holiday quiz to test your knowledge on personal finance – the answers can all be found in past numbers of Family Money Regular readers should be able to score at least 20 correct answers.

Questions

1 Which building societies gave access to Access?

2 What did Save & Prosper do to interest people with bank accounts?

3 Why are there lions in Chelsea?

4 Who split Cedar four ways?

5 Who got mired in Miras?

6 How did Grindlays go for gold?

7 Continental travellers have had to carry extra weight since May. Why?

8 Which building society made it a good day for the ducks?

9 Why were housebuyers pleased by the height of the ceiling?

10 *Decus et Tutamen* is:
a) the motto of the Stock Exchange?
b) on the £1 coin?
c) above the entrance of the gold futures exchange?
d) an oath taken by the chairman of Lloyd's?

11 How many Britons can you bank on?
a) 50%
b) 63%
c) 75%
d) 80%

12 Who will display their figures in your living room?

13 What policymaker wants to insure that the wealthy keep their affairs in order?

14 Which institution has helped its savers to be less calculating?

15 Who decided more should be rolling in from rolling up?

16 Who is putting less of a premium on beating burglars?

17 Why are bank accounts moving to Yorkshire?

18 He could have turned £300 into £485 but he settled for £100. Who is this promising young investor?

19 Where did Steve Ovett insure he came first?

20 How did this man add interest to the rates?

21 Why does Katie Boyle want you to pay a premium on your pets?

22 How has this silversmith been put on his metal?

23 How did Brigid Sandford Smith put equal rights for husbands on the books?

A: Which country minted this coin and what is it made of?

B: Why are these girls far from stumped by life assurance?



C: When did beauty queens dazzle the City with statistics?

Answers

1 National and Provincial and Nationwide, who joined forces with National Westminster and Midland banks to make their customers eligible to apply for an Access card.

2 The S & P Unit trust group launched a high interest deposit account with a cheque book facility available to those with more than £2,500 to invest.

3 Because Chelsea Building Society has reissued its popular Lion shares which pay premium interest over a three-year term.

4 Touche Remnant when it unitized Cedar Investment Trust, turning it into four unit trusts.

5 Everyone buying a house on a mortgage with the introduction of the new method of deducting mortgage interest relief at source. The change meant some nasty shocks for homebuyers when they opened their pay packets at the end of April.

6 Grindlays Bank joined the American Express Gold Card programme and customers earning £20,000 a year can now apply for a card which gives an instant overdraft facility of £7,500.

7 Since May anyone wanting to cash cheques overseas has to have a Eurocheque encashment card issued by the banks to overcome the escalating incidence of fraud. Midland, the odd bank out, went over to an entirely new system involving a new uniform Eurocheque Card and separate cheques which can be used in shops and restaurants as well as in banks.

8 The Greenwich which has launched an adopt a duck account, under whose rules it makes a £4 donation to the Wildfowl Trust for every account opened and savers can select and name their own duck.

9 The Government's proposal to raise the limit on mortgage interest tax relief from £25,000 to £30,000 which was dropped from the Finance Bill before the election, was replaced in the mini budget.

10 It is the engraving round the edge of the new £1 coin. It means "an ornament and a safeguard," and is intended to deter conterfeiters because it is difficult to reproduce.

11 These days 75 per cent of British adults hold a bank current or deposit account.

12 Nottingham Building Society and the Bank of Scotland which have launched the Homelink home banking system. Subscribers using a computer console linked to *their television* can transfer cash, pay bills and check their accounts.

13 Hambro Life, the life assurance company, which in October launched its financial management programme offering a package of services to the busy, or lazy, client with at least £25,000 to place.

14 The National Savings Bank which from January 1 is changing its way of calculating interest on it investment accounts and will pay on a daily basis. The old system where interest was earned only on whole pounds for whole months meant that investors had to be very careful about the timing of their payments and withdrawals.

15 The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, who has dictated that from January 1 any gains made in offshore roll-up funds (which have dodged tax by reinvesting interest – thus providing a capital gain rather than income) will be taxed as income at the highest marginal rate.

16 The Sun Alliance Insurance Company, whose new Firemark home contents policy gives a discount on premiums to those who take special precautions against the burglary.

17 Because the Yorkshire Bank is one of the few to offer free banking to those who keep in credit. Its current accounts rose by 800,000 in the year to October 1983.

18 Ward Lawrence who emerged overall winner of *The Times*/Money Programme unit trust competition. A sum of £100 invested in each of his three sections: Britannia Gold and General; Britannia Minerals and Crescent Tokyo, over calendar 1982, would have turned into a total £484.72. But schoolboy Ward did not actually invest in his tips so all he got was the prize of £100.

19 Steve Ovett, the middle distance runner, took out the first policy when the Prudential joined forces with the Amateur Athletic Association to provide personal accident cover for athletics.

20 Mr Clive Thornton, chief executive of the Abbey National Building Society (about to become chairman of the Mirror newspaper group) wrecked the big societies' cartel for fixing interest rates when he pulled Abbey out.

21 Katie Boyle is promoting Pet Plan's new scheme for insuring the cost of vets' fees.

22 Chailey Lambert who makes silver models as a hobby has been given the chance to make it a full-time job by winning the "Head Start in Business" competition run by the Industrial Society in conjunction with Abbey National Building Society. Part of the prize is a rent and rate-free office for a year

23 Backed by the Equal Opportunities Commission, Brigid Sandford Smith won her campaign to make Pentos, the bookshop and publishing company, change its pension scheme rules to allow widowers of female employees, to receive a pension as of right.

Answers to picture quiz

A: It is the platinum Noble minted by the Isle *of Man government with* a face value of £10.

B: They are members of an all female sales force spearheaded by international cricketer Rachael Heyhoe Flint (centre) and trained by St George Assurance to sell insurance and savings products to women.

C: On April 14, 1983 when Mr. Eric Morley's Miss World company was floated on the Unlisted Securities Market and the shares soared from 60p to 133p on the first day of dealing.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	†10¼%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	*9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 6¼%: £10,000 up to £50,000, 6¾%: £50,000 and over, 7¼%.

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Banks
Current account – no interest paid. Deposit accounts – Midland, Barclays, Lloyds, Natwest 5½ per cent, seven days notice required for withdrawals. National Girobank 7 per cent. Lloyds extra interest 9 per cent. Monthly income account Natwest 9⅛ per cent. Fixed term deposits £2,500-£25,000 – 1, 3 and 6 months 8¾ per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

National Savings Bank
Ordinary accounts – interest 6 per cent on £500 minimum on deposit for whole of 1984, otherwise 3 per cent.

National Savings Certificates 26th Issue
Return totally free of income and capital gains tax, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five-year term of 8.26 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

National Savings Income Bond
Min investment £2,000 – max. £200,000. Interest – 11½ per cent variable at six weeks notice – paid monthly without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3 or 6 months notice – check penalties.

National Savings 2nd index-linked certificates
Maximum investment £10,000, excluding holdings of other issues. Return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index Supplement of 0.2 per cent per month up to October 1984 paid to new investors; existing holders receive a 2.4 per cent supplement between October 1983 and October 1984 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 Retirement Issue certificates purchased in November 1978, £177.46 including bonus and supplement.

National Savings Deposit Bond.
Minimum investment £500 max £50,000, 11½ per cent variable at six weeks notice. Credited annually without deduction of tax. Repayment at three months notice Half interest only paid on bonds repaid during the first year.

Guaranteed Income Bonds
Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity.
2 years English Insurance 8.4 per cent. 3 years Crescent Life 8.5 per cent. 4 years American Life 9.0-10.5 per cent. 5 years Eurolife 9.5 per cent.

Local authority yearling bonds 12-month fixed rate investments, interest 9¹⁄₁₆ per cent basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.

Local authority town hall bonds
Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). 1 year Lambeth 9¼ per cent. 2-3 years Hyndburn 10¼ per cent. 4-8 years Knowsley 11⅛. 9-10 years Worthing 11 per cent. Further details available from Chartered institute of Public Loans Bureau (01-828 7855 after 3pm) see also on Prestel no 24808.

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts – 7.25 per cent. Term shares – 1 to 5 years, between 0.5 per cent and 1.75 per cent over the BSA recommended ordinary share rate depending on the term. Regular savings schemes – 1.25 per cent over BSA recommended ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax. Not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Investors in industry
Fixed term, fixed rate investments of between 3 and 10 years, interest paid half-yearly without deduction of tax: 3 years, 10½ per cent; 4-5 years, 10¾ per cent; 6-10 years, 11 per cent; Further information from 3i, 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 (01-928 7822).

Finance house deposits (UDT)
Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits, interest paid without deductions of tax. Five-Fifty scheme: 6 months 9¼ per cent; 1 year, 9¼ per cent; 2 years, 10 per cent.

Foreign currency deposits
Rates quoted by Rothschild's Old Court Intl. Reserves 0481 26741 seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.

US dollar	9 27 per cent
Yen	6.21 per cent
D Mark	5.66 per cent
French Franc	10.93 per cent
Swiss Franc	6.67 per cent

November RPI: 341.9 (The new RPI figure is not announced until the third week of the following month.)

Tobacco brands, especially the expensive, are recovering. Derek Harris reports

Whiff of success for cigars

The £300m-a-year cigar market looks like improving its performance this year, possibly by nearly 3 per cent, after three years of falling sales. The improvement has come in the run-up to Christmas, when about a third of all cigars are sold.

Cigarette sales have also been recovering but not enough to improve on last year.

Sales of fine cigars, aimed up-market, have recently jumped by 15 per cent or so. They had plunged by a fifth in 1981 as company chiefs eschewed hand-rolled Havanas along with Rolls-Royces. Now, after two Cuban harvests hit by storms, importers are worried by future supplies.

In the three main categories of the volume market – machine-sized whiffs and miniatures – the company that appears to be benefiting most is Gallaher, Britain's second largest tobacco manufacturer and a part of American Brands.

The sales recovery has shown most in the whiffs sector, which accounts for three-quarters of all cigar sales. The sector is dominated by Hamlet, Gallaher's Benson and Hedges brand.

Imperial Toacco, Britain's biggest tobacco manufacturer, dominates the larger cigar market, with its Wills' Castellas and Wintermans half coronas, one of the Dutch range which it imports. The panatella sector, accounting for 10 per cent of all cigar sales, is the least bouyant, according to Imperial.

Imperial also dominates the miniatures market, its Tom Thumb brand being market leader with Winterman's Cafe Creme as number two. The miniatures sector has merely stopped declining.

Imperial says that all its brands, including the imported ones have been at least holding on to their sales.

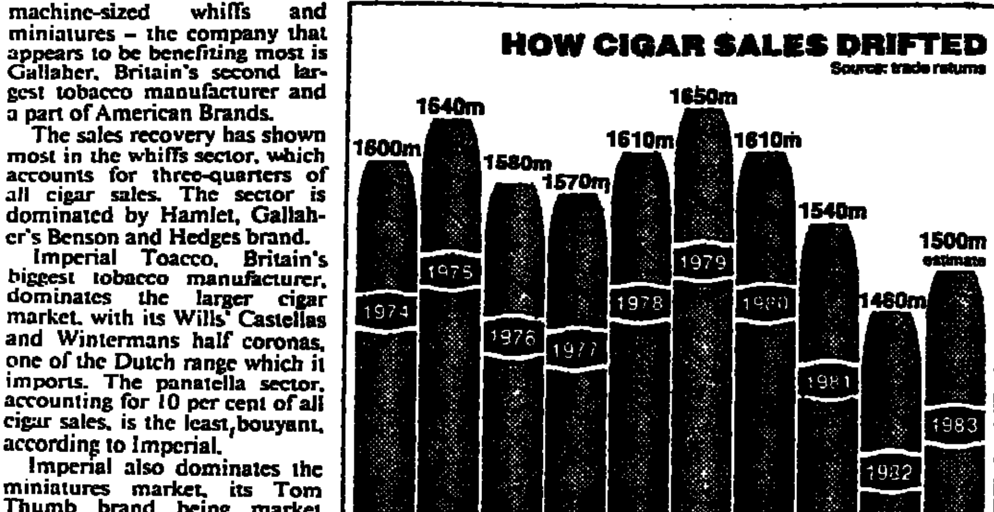
The main battle is among the medium-sized whiffs, where Imperial claims a 40 per cent share through Panama and such brands as Embassy Slims, Grandee and John Player Mild.

The whiffs sector is showing a growth of up to 1 per cent, and Hamlet, for which a 65 per cent market share is claimed, has improved its share by 3 per cent this year, according to Mr Guy Moreland-Green, general manager cigars for Gallaher. Panama, its nearest challenger, is credited with 14 per cent.

Gallaher whiff-sized Manikin, once Britain's best selling cigar, is trailing behind at least four Imperial brands with a 5 per cent share. Smokers have not liked its shorter, stubbier, darker-leaf nature, preferring instead, slimmer cigars with lighter wrapper leaf.

As a result, Manikin has changed. Gallaher has retained its leaf formula to give a fuller taste, but has slimmed and lengthened the cigar. The new formula has just gone on national sale after being test-marketed in the south-east. The change looks like stabilizing sales and possibly turning them round.

Mr Moreland-Green said: "The cigar market is pretty steady and conservative, so onlly a small increase in sales over the next year can be expected." Offsetting the whiffs growth is a declining trend in panatellas, although only peripheral brands have lost sales, he said.



Imperial is inclined to be more optimistic on sales trends. It is looking to possibly 1,500 million cigars going into the trade this year, an increase on 1982 of almost 3 per cent.

By value cigars account for 4.5 per cent of the tobacco market in Britain, compared with 2.7 per cent in the United States, and reflects the way smaller cigars have become more an everyday habit. Fifty-seven per cent of cigars are smoked by lower socio-economic groups.

At the other end of the scale, fine cigars sell about 4.5 million a year, far fewer than they used to and less than 1 per cent of the cigar market by volume. The trade is largely through a handful of London-based importers. One of those is Dunhill, in which Rothman International has a majority stake. According to Mr Richard Dunhill, the chairman, "fine cigar sales are up 15 per cent with us. Some manufacturers are claiming more than that."

With possibly half of Havana cigars now made by machine – to the dismay of connoisseurs who inveigh against the chopping of leaves – a distinct market segment is emerging of hand-rolled Havanas at premium prices. Monte Cristo and Davidoff have been making the running, closely followed by Romeo y Julietta.

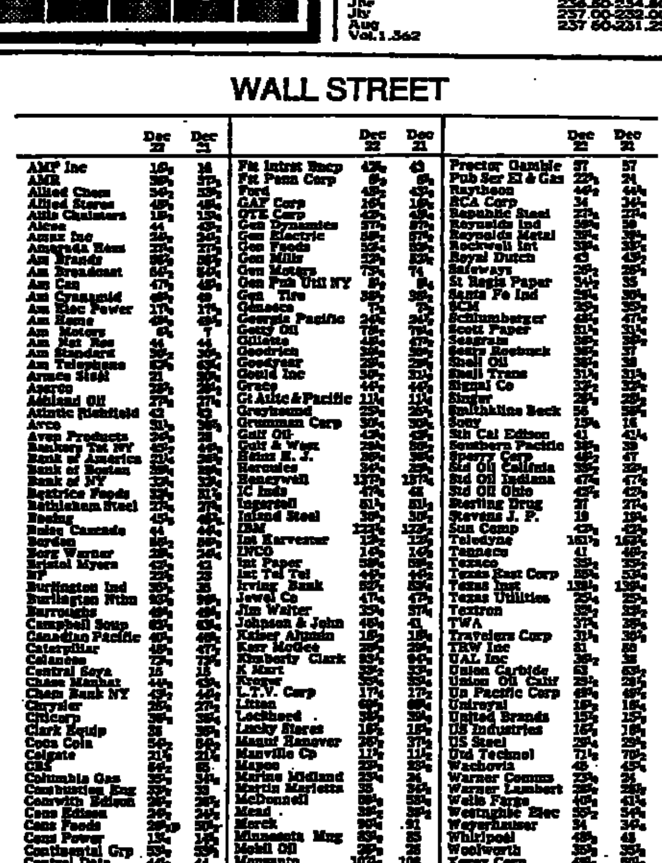
The top of the new Dunhill range costs £11.50 in an individual box and gives a three-hour smoke.

Historically, cigar sales rise and fall according to the availability of disposabe income nationally. At least at the top of the market, there is now barely a whiff of recession.

COMMODITIES

[illegible]

WALL STREET



[illegible]

Unit Trust Prices - change on the week

Authorized Unit Trusts

Prev W'end Offer	Ch'ge on Week	Trust	Bid	Current Offer	Yield
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

MARKET REPORT ● by Michael Clark

Buyer worries Distillers

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 12. Dealings end, Dec 29. Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 9.

News is expected in the New Year that a mystery buyer has built up a 4 per cent stake in **Distillers**, Britain's largest exporter of scotch whisky.

Yesterday, the shares stood out among the *FT* constituents with a 2p rise to 236p – a rise on the week of 17p. At this level, the group, whose brands include Jonny Walker Red Label and White Horse, are valued at £857m with historic asset backing of more than 300p a share.

Word is that the buying has caused some apprehension in the Distillers boardroom. A spokesman for Distillers said the company was aware of the strength in the share price over the past three or four days, but never comments on market rumour. Speculation has mentioned a possible consortium bid. But any bid is likely to be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Stocks of scotch whisky, equivalent to seven years' worth of consumption, are stored in Scottish distillers, but analysts estimate that sales have bottomed out and there are now signs of a pick-up in world demand. Recent interim profits from Distillers showed a fall of £17m to £64.9m and for the full year analysts expect a £10m shortfall on last year's £209m.

The rest of the equity market almost ground to a halt with brokers drifting back to their offices around lunchtime for a farewell drink before the Christmas festivities got under way.

The broker Capel-Cure Myers has become a fan of Spring Ram, the Yorkshire bathroom and kitchen equipment manufacturer, and says it has "outstanding" prospects. CCM expects pretax profits to grow from £1.03m to £1.40m this year followed by £2m next year and recommends buying the shares at or below the present level of 171p.

Leading shares slipped back on lack of support with the FT index closing the short working session 1.2 down at 775.0. Gilts responded to a firmer pound which closed 15 points up against the dollar at $1.4295 on the foreign exchange. Dealers reported gains of up to 25p at the longer end in thin trade with sentiment still supported by the recent batch of optimistic forecasts on the domestic economy.

Elsewhere among the leaders, **Bowater** slipped 2p from a year's high to 265p on profit taking. Rumours persist that Sir James Goldsmith's **General Occidentale** may be buying the shares. **Beecham** lost 3p to 318p along with **Glaxo** 5p to 720p, **ICI** 4p to 656p, **TI Group** 2p to 170p and **Tate & Lyle** 3p to 378p.

Shares of **International Paint** returned from suspension 36p dearer at 203p after the all-share offer of five shares for three from **Courtaulds**, which already owns 88 per cent of the company. The deal is worth 210p a share. Courtaulds slipped 1p to 126p.

Meanwhile, the **Lloyds Bank** pension fund has found itself the owner of a 5.5 per cent stake in **Crystalate Holdings**, the electronics group, as a result of the 6 per cent it held in **Royal Worcester**. Crystalate recently made a successful bid for Royal Worcester to which Lloyds was one of the underwriters for part of the cash offer, which would have given it extra shares. Crystalate slipped 1p to 199p on the news

It has been a good account, so far, for the discount houses. All week, the shares have responded to whispers of a tripartate merger of some sort. Yesterday, the market speculator's money was on Alexanders Discount on 332p, Jessel Toynbee on 68p and Smith St Aubyn on 47p. Only last year, Jessel Toynbee decided to merge with Gillett Bros after months of rumour.

Sir Monty Finniston is taking up an option to buy 100,000 shares in Metal Sciences, the shot blasting grit maker, which joined the Unlisted Securities Market this year. Sir Monty, chairman of Metal Sciences, is excited by current market reserch confirming a substantial market for the group's high quality abrasive and has already attracted serious inquiries from overseas. Full production will get uner way in the New Year. The shares slipped 1p to 18p. Laing & Cruickshank has recently been appointed the group's broker.

The **UnitedKingdom Provident Institution** has bought an extra 400,000 shares in **NSS Newsagents** taking its total holding to 5.5m (17.3 per cent). NSS was unchanged at 94p.

Mr Jimmy Gulliver, chairman of **Argyll Group**, has sold 1m shares in the group following the merger with **Amalgamated Distilled Products**, reducing his stake to 5.7m. Two other directors, Mr Matthew Grant and Mr David Webster, have sold a total of 500,000 shares.

1982/83 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
91	50½	Murray West	91	..	2.7b	3.0	..
87	45½	Do 'B'	86	..	..	..	..
80	40	New Darien Oil	55	+1	0.4e	0.7	..
37	18	N Throg Inc 83	34	..	3.1b	9.2	..
27	20	Do Cap	24	..	..	..	..
292	91	New Tokyo	292	..	..	..	..
240	125	North Atlantic	240	+1	4.3	1.8	..
160	107	Nth Sea Assets	112	−2	4.3	3.8	..
227	124	Northern Amer	224	..	7.7	3.4	..
131	71	Oil & Associated	120	..	6.3	5.2	..
293	151	Pentland	288	..	9.8	3.4	..
38	31	Personal Assets	35	..	..	..	..
242	143	Raeburn	242	..	11.6b	4.8	..
753	410	Robeco fl5	748	−1	32.8	4.4	..
718	400	Rolinco Subs fl5	716	−1	16.6	2.3	..
47½	35¾	Rorento 'NV'	£45	..	..	..	..
194	126	Scot Amer	191	+1	6..	3.5	..
124	77	Scot Eastern	124	..	4.8	3.9	..
209	124	Scot Invest	209	..	6.7	3.2	..
287	149	Scot Mortgage	287	..	8.9	3.1	..
175	94	Scot National	175	..	5.6	3.2	..
110	68¾	Scot Northern	109	..	4.4	4.0	..
414	226	Sec Alliance	412	−2	15.4	3.7	..
40	25	Stewart Ent	34	+1	0.6b	1.7	..
219	128	Stockholders	213	−1	5.5	2.6	..
186	90	TR Australia	186	..	5.2	2.8	..
60	36½	TR C of Ldn Dfd	59	−1	3.9	6.5	
122	70½	TR Ind & Gen	122	..	4.5	3.7	
219	143	TR Natural Res	214	..	10.0	4.7	
162	71½	TR Nth America	162	..	4.6	2.9	
213	92	TR Pacific Basin	213	+1	2.9	1.3	
115	71	TR Property	115	..	4.0b	3.5	
153	85½	TR Technology	153	..	4.7	3.1	
101	63	TR Trustees	101	..	4.7b	4.7	
211	120	Throg Sec 'Cap'	211	..	8.6b	4.1	
172	107	Throgmtn Trust	171	+3	9.3	5.4	
144	73	Trans Oceanic	140	..	4.1	2.9	
170	91	Tribune Inv	170	+2	5.0	2.9	
77½	60½	Triplevest 'Inc'	68	..	10.5b	15.5	
488	310	Do Cap	488	+2	..	..	
175	102	Utd States Deb	165	..	9.3b	5.6	
94	59	Viking Res	77	..	1.3	1.7	
60	38	Westpool Inv	53	..	1.8	3.3	
121	64	Witan Inv	121	..	3.4b	2.8	

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FOOTBALL: CHRISTMAS RUSH BEGINS ON BOXING DAY MORNING

West Ham's fall is Tottenham spur

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

The first division's marathon men are about to hit "the wall." For four months they have been running at a regular pace, as the halfway stage of their elongated race comes into view, they now face a cruelly short, sharp sprint. Over the festive period most teams will be required to play four matches in eight days.

Liverpool, whose overall strength and fitness has become almost as traditional as the decorations on a Christmas tree, adapt admirably to such a change of speed but this year they may find themselves unusually short of breath. Two Milk Cup ties in three days against Birmingham City were, after all, scarcely the ideal preparation.

Their programme becomes progressively harder. On Boxing Day they visit West Bromwich Albion, who have lost their last three home games as well as most of their players. Statham is injured, Thompson and Owen are suspended and Whitehead, MacKenzie, Bennett and Robertson are all considered more than doubtful. Liverpool go on toe entertain Leicester City, who have not only recovered to take 10 out of the last 15 points but also won at Anfield on their last visit two years ago. After travelling to Nottingham Forest, they then return home to meet their most realistic challengers, Manchester United, on January 2.

United had expected to be without their captain, Robson, until at least the New Year but the Old Trafford staff have been astonished by his recovery from a severely bruised instep. Mick Brown, the assistant manager, was "shocked by the extend of his injury in Monday's Milk Cup defeat. When he took his boot off, his foot seemed to explode.

"It swelled up so much that he could only just get it into a bucket of water. But apart from being a great healer, he plays with injuries that would keep other players out for weeks. I would not rule him out even of the game on Monday." That is against Coventry City, unbeaten in their last eight games. McQueen, Bailey and Crooks, who has scored four goals in two reserve outings, are also expected to return at Highfield Road, where Liverpool recently suffered their heaviest defeat for six year. Even if United fail there, they should make up ground at home to Notts County and Stoke City.

West Ham United traditionally follow the opposite path to Liverpool. They dropped from fourth to eighth in the second half of last season and, after winning only one of their last six games, are again beginning to show signs of losing their place, currently third. West Ham, at home to Southampton on Monday and away to Luton Town on Tuesday, will be without their leading scorer, Swindlehurst, who is suspended after being sent off against Arsenal a fortnight ago. Pike has also been ordered to rest a troublesome groin strain.

London's challenge may soon be taken over by Queen's Park Rangers and Tottenham Hotspur. Rangers, £150,000 the richer for selling Roeder to Newcastle United yesterday, will be at full strength for their visit to Leicester and Totenham are now as close to its as they have been since the start of the season. Mabbutt alone is unfit.

They open the Christmas rush against Arsenal at 11 o'clock on Monday morning. Arsenal's line-up will not be unwrapped until shortly before the kick-off and Tottenham's will be refreshingly new. For a start, Ardiles, who came on as a substitute and created a goal with his initial touch at Old Trafford last Friday, will begin his first match since February 5. Perryman moves to right back, Hughton comes in at left back, Archibald returns up front with Brazil and Falco, yet to miss a game so far, is left to sit on the bench. Surprisingly, both of their yong wingers, Dick and Cook, are preferred to Galvin.

Don Howe, whose own position at Highbury may prove to be even more temporary than those on his team sheet, knows that he cannot consider either Talbot or Rix. He may also be forced to omit O'Leary, Sunderland and Robson as well. It is significant that, of that experienced quintet, only Talbot did not contribute to their Milk Cup victory at White Hart Lane six weeks ago.

● Brentford, who have brought forward their Boxing Day home game with Wimbledon to Christmas Eve, will have father Cristmas giving away chocolate bars to children before the game, whose kickoff has been moved from 11.30 to 3.0. The club have clean bill of health except for Tony Spencer, who has a knee injury.



Keeping injury at bay: Robson hoping for a Boxing Day return

Melia wants a job in England

Jimmy Melia, who took Brighton to their first FA Cup final last season, is making a success of his coaching job with the Lisbon second division team Belenensen, but is anxious to return to English football.

Melia, spending Christmas at his Hove home, is a superbly fit 45 year old and says: "There's no place like Britain for football, and my ambition is to get back to a League club.".

Scotland with northern accent

By Hugh Taylor

Jock Stein, Scotland's manager, will be the most observant spectator watching the premier division match between St Mirren and Aberdeen at Love Street today.

Since Aberdeen have become the unofficial champions of Europe after beating Hamburg in the Super Cup final, with flair, dedication and commitment combining to produce an effective and attractive style, there has been an outcry from the Scotland team, now plumbing the international depths, to change their pattern and follow the ways of the highly successful Northern club.

Whether, of course, the beleaguered Stein will allow himself to be talked into changing Scotland's methods is open to doubt. He seems to remain convinced that the only way World Cup success can come is by playing in the calm manner of the crack European teams, with possession football the key. Nevertheless, he will see today that the style of Aberdeen is almost a facsimile of that of the great Celtic team whom Stein himself guided to European Cup glory in 1967, with the accent more on sweeping attack than on the more passive Continental approach.

Victory by Aberdeen, who are firmer favourites than ever to scoop every Scottish honour this season, may at least influence Stern in demanding of his players a more committed attitude even if he still believes the old, bustling, fiery assault evoking memories of clan raids can no longer play a part in winning games at the highest level.

Aberdeen will have to be at their best if they are to overcome a St Mirren team who have improved to such an extent since Alex Miller, the former Rangers player, became manager that Dundee United, Celtic and Rangers have all been humbled at Love Street.

This sole premier division match signals the start of an exciting holiday programme. For instance, Celtic are still hot on the heels of the leaders. Aberdeen, are hoping that the roles will be reversed from this stage last year, when they held a three-point advantage over Aberdeen and were six in front of the eventual champions, Dundee United.

It is unfair to say that these three are the only title contenders this season, although Aberdeen are the team in command, so Celtic recognize that a win over Dundee United at Parkhead on Tueday is essential if they are to stay in touch.

World stops for Irish

Berne (Reuter) – the meeting to arrange the 1986 World Cup qualifying stage fixtures for the European zone's group six – comprizing Denmark, Republic of Ireland, Norway, Soviet Union and Switzerland – has been postponed until January 19 or 20 because a national coach is on holiday.

● Sheffield United supporters can watch the New Year's Eve match against Bolton at Bramall Lane after all. A dispute over policing costs – United owe South Yorkshire County Council more than £51,000 – threatened to force the match behind closed doors since the club were not going to police the ground and the council retaliated by asking magistrates to ban spectators. The ground will now be policed and the dispute will go to the High Court.

● Kingstonian, of the Isthmian league, are looking forward to their merriest Christmas and happiest New year for some time. Their chairman, Freddie Jones, has negotiated a deal to sell the Richmond Road frontage of the ground for development to give a substantial tonic to ailing finances.

Independiente are champions

Buenos Aires, (Reuter). – Independente beat Racing Avellaneda 2-0 to become first division champions of Argentian for the eleventh time. San Lorènzo finished runners-up after beating Platense 2-0.

Racing were banished to the second division for the first time in their history yesterday after the local soccer association's disciplinary tribunal confirmed as final results the scores of two league matches suspended on Sunday because of crowd trouble.

Rush job a mistake

Ian Rush hit his 20th goal of the season, against Birmingham City at Anfield on Thursday night, almost by accident. He sealed Liverpool's 3-0 Milk Cup fourth round replay victory by hitting a 74th minute penalty past Coton.

Souness is Liverpool's usual penalty taker, but their manager, Joe Fagan, said afterwards: "Somebody on the pitch said Rush was on a hat-trick so, having won the penalty when brought down by the 'keeper, he was allowed to take it. But it was not his hat-trick – it was only his second goal."

Rush played a big part in Liverpool's opening goal, after 39 minutes, when he stroked the pass that let Nicol in to score. Rush made it 2-0 with a 53rd minute header, before he stepped up to take his first spot kick for the champions, sending Coton the wrong way as he drove the ball home.

On a cold, wet and windy night only 11,638 people turned up to see the teams clash for the second time in 48 hours. Following the 1-1 draw at St Andrew's, the replay was virtually all Liverpool, and Fagan summed it up perfectly when he said: "We deserved to win it. Maybe it was not too entertaining in the first half, but in the end the crowd were well entertained."

Much of that entertainment was provided by Coton, who performed heroics to keep the score down. The three goals he conceded meant that Liverpool now face a quarter-final round visit to the second division leaders, Sheffield Wednesday.

Fixtures for today and Boxing Day

Kick-off at 3.00 unless stated

Third division
Brentford v Wimbledon

Scottish premier division
St Mirren v Aberdeen

Scottish first division
Airdrie v Meadowbank

Scottish second division
Queen of the South v Arbroath

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Staines v Wokingham. Second division: Molesey v Corinthian-Casuals.
IRISH LEAGUE: Ards v Coleraine (2.15); Ballymena v Bangor (2.15); Carrick Rangers v Glenavon (2.15); Cliftonville v Glentoran (2.15); Linfield v Larne; Newry v Crusaders (2.15); Portadown v Distillery (2.15).
FA TROPHY: Third qualifying round (3.00): Bromley v Aylesbury.
SUSSEX SENIOR CUP: Second Round Replay (2.00): Whitehawk v Eastbourne Town.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Alfreton Town v Heanor Town; Appleby Frodingham v Sutton Town; Bentley Victoria v Arnold; Boston v Spalding Utd; Eastwood Town v Emley; Guisborough Town v Guiseley; Bridlington Trinity v Belper Town; Ilkeston Town v Winterton Rangers; Thackley v Maxborough.
NORTHERN LEAGUE (2.15): First division: Ashington v Blyth Spartans; Crook v Billingham; Evenwood v Shildon; Ferryhill v Gretna; Horden v South Bank; Tow Law v Consett; Whitby v Spennymoor; Whitley Bay v North Shields.
DURHAM CHALLENGE CUP: First round: Esh Winning v Durham City.

RUGBY UNION
CLUB MATCHES
Aberavon v Maesteg
Birkenhead Park v Liverpool
Blackheath v Wasps (2.15)
Bridgend v Cardiff
Ebbw Vale v Mosely
Gloucester v Plymouth Albion
Gosforth v Middlesborough (2.15)
Harlequins v Richmond (2.15 at Stoop Memorial Ground)
Harrogate v Roundhay (2.30)
Heriot's FP v Boroughmuir (2.15)
Kelso v Alnwick (2.15)
Llanelli v S Wales Police
Melrose v Jed-Forest (2.15)
Northern v Morpeth (2.30)
Nuneaton v Northampton
Otley v Preston Grasshoppers (2.30)
Penarth v Neath
Percy Park v Hartlepool Rovers (2.0)
Rugby v Nottingham (2.30)
Sale v Wilmslow (2.30)
Sheffield v Fylde (2.30)
Stewart's Melville FP v Haddington (2.15)
Vale of Lune v Chester (2.30)
Wakefield v Headingley (2.30)
Waterloo v New Brighton (2.30)
West of Scotland v Jordanhill (2.15)

SCOTTISH INTER-DISTRICT
Edinburgh v North and Midlands (at Murrayfield, 1.0)
South v Glasgow (at Hawick, 2.0)

OTHER SPORT
HOCKEY. London League, premier division: (2.15): Beckenham v Mid-Surrey; Surbiton v Hawks. Postponed: Teddington v Slough.

ICE HOCKEY. British League, premier division: Fife Flyers v Dundee Rockets (7.0).

BOXING DAY
Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

First division
Birmingham v Nottingham F
Coventry v Manchester U
Everton v Sunderland
Ipswich v Wolverhampton
Leicester v Q P Rangers (11.30)
Notts County v Luton (11.30)
Stoke v Norwich
Tottenham v Arsenal (11.0)
Watford v Aston Villa (12.0)
West Bromwich A v Liverpool
West Ham v Southampton (11.30)

Second division
Barnsley v Cambridge U
Cardiff v Swansea (11.30)
C Palace v Brighton
Fulham v Derby
Grimsby v Sheffield W
Leeds v Huddersfield
Manchester C v Oldham
Middlesbrough v Carlisle
Newcastle v Blackburn
Portsmouth v Charlton (11.30)
Shrewsbury v Chelsea

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Altrincham v Bangor City; Enfield v Barnet (11.0); Frickley v Boston Utd. (11.30); Kettering v Wealdstone; Maidstone v Dagenham (11.0); Runcorn v Northwich Vic; Telford Utd. v Nuneaton; Trowbridge v Bath; Weymouth v Yeovil (11.0); Worcester v Kidderminster (11.0).

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier Division: Billericay v Harlow (11.0); Bishop's Stortford v Hitchin; Bognor Regis v Worthing; Bromley v Dulwich H.; Carshalton v Sutton Utd. (11.15); Croydon v Tooting & Mitcham; Harrow v Hendon; Slough Tn. v Wycombe Wdrs. First Division: Chesham v Oxford City (at Aylesbury) (11.30); Feltham v Kingstonian (11.0); Hampton v Met Police; Hertford v Chehunt (11.0); Lewes v Leatherhead; Windsor and E v Maidenhead.

Second Division: Barton Rvrs v Letchworth (11.0); Dorking v Southall; Hungerford v Newbury; St Albans v Finchley (11.0); Tring v Hemel H; Uxbridge v Egham; Ware v Epping.

WESTERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple v Bideford (2.30); Chippenham v Melksham (11.0); Clandown v Devizes (11.0); Clevedon v Bristol Manor Farm (11.0); Dawlish v Liskeard (2.30); Exmouth v Plymouth (11.0); Frome v Weston-Super-Mare (11.0); Mangotsfield v Shepton Mallet (11.0); Minehead v Taunton (10.45); Wellington v Saltash (11.0).

Third division
Bournemouth v Newport
Burnley v Bradford
Gillingham v Southend
Hull v Scunthorpe
Lincoln v Walsall
Millwall v Orient (11.30)
Oxford U v Bristol R
Plymouth v Exeter
Preston v Port Vale
Sheffield U v Rotherham (12.0)
Wigan v Bolton (11.0)

Fourth division
Aldershot v Reading
Bristol C v Stockport
Bury v Rochdale (3.15)
Doncaster v Northampton (12.0)
Halifax v York
Hartlepool v Darlington
Hereford v Crewe
Mansfield v Chesterfield (11.30)
Peterborough v Colchester
Torquay v Swindon
Tranmere v Blackpool
Wrexham v Chester

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier Division: Alvechurch v Sutton Coldfield (11.0), A.P. Leamington v Corby; Cheltenham v Gloucester (11.30); Dartford v Gravesend (11.0); Fareham Tn v Gosport; Fisher Ath. v Chelmsford (11.0); Hastings v Folkstone; King's Lynn v Welling Utd; Stourbridge v Bedworth (11.0); Witney Tn. v Dorchester. Midland Division: Banbury v S Rusby; Forest Gn v Bridgewater (10.45); Leicester Utd v Shepshed C (11.0); Merthyr T v Bridnorth; Milton Keyes v Aylesbury (11.0); Moor Green v Tamworth (11.0); Oldbury v Coventry Sporting (11.0); Redditch Utd v Bromsgrove Rvrs (11.0); Wellingboro v Rusnden; Willenhall v Dudley (11.00). Southern Division: Basingstoke v R S Southampton; Canterbury v Dover; Chatham v Thanet (11.0); Crawley v Ashford; Dunstable v Hounslow (11.0); Erith and B v Tonbridge (11.0); Hillingdon v Addlestone (11.30); Poole v Andover; Salisbury v Cambridge City.

IRISH LEAGUE: Glenavon v Cliftonville (2.15); Newry v Portadown (2.15).

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Barrow v Workington; Burton Alb. v Stafford Rangers (11.0); Buxton v Matlock; Chorley v Horwich; Gainsborough v Worksop (11.0); Grantham v Goole; Hyde Utd. v Sth. Liverpool; Macclesfield v Oswestry; Marine v Rhyl; Southport v Morecombe; Witton Alb. v Mossley.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Accrington Stan v Leyland Motors; Congleton v Leek; Curzon Ashton v Ashton, Formby v Netherfield; Lancaster v Prescot Cables; Radcliffe Boro v Bootle; St Helens v Darwen; Stalybridge Celtic v Caernarfon; Winsford v Glossop.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First Division: Ferryhill v Evenwood; Peterlea v Horden; Shildon v Bishop Auckland; South Bank v Whitby; Spennymoor v Crook, Tow Law v Billingham.

Scottish premier division
Motherwell v Hearts

Scottish first division
Alloa v Hamilton
Ayr v Clyde
Clydebank v Raith
Falkirk v Kilmarnock
Morton v Brechin
Partick v Dumbarton

Scottish second division
Cowdenbeath v Stenhousemuir
Dunfermline v Stirling
East Fife v Queen's Park
East Stirling v Albion
Stranraer v Forfar

RUGBY UNION
CLUB MATCHES
Bath v Clifton
Bedford v Old Paulines
Bristol v Newbridge
Broughton Pk v Sale
Cardiff v Pontypridd
Ebbw Vale v Abertillery
Gloucester v Lydney
Llanelli v Ldn. Welsh
Ldn. Irish v O Millhillians (2.30)
Maesteg v Bridgend
Moseley v Coventry
Neath v Aberavon
Newport v Sth. Glam. Inst
Northampton v Saracens (3.30)
Northern v Gosforth
Nuneaton v Rugby (11.00)
Otley v Morley
Pontypool v Cross Keys
Preston Grasshoppers v Fylde (2.30)
Swansea v Glamorgan Wdrs
Vale of Lune v Kendal (2.15)
W Hartlepool v Hartlepool R (2.15)

TRUMAN MERIT TABLE: Old Alleynians v Old Whitgiftians. Old Colfeians v Old Shootershillians.

RUGBY LEAGUE
FIRST DIVISION: Bradford v Widnes (3.30); Castleford v Wakefield T (11.30); Leeds v Fulham; Oldham v Salford. Wigan v St Helens. SECOND DIVISION: Blackpool B v Keighley (2.30); Bramley v Doncaster (11.00); Dewsbury v Batley (11.00); Huddersfield v Halifax (11.00); Huyton v Barrow (2.30); Swinton v Rochdale H; York v Hunslet (11.30); Workington v Carlisle (2.30).

HOCKEY
CLUB MATCHES: Bromley XI v Bandits; Cheam v President's XI; Horley v Crowborough; Old Edwardians v Old Tauntonians; Old Whitgiftians v Old Mid-Whitgiftians.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: North: Cheshire v Lancashire (Bowdon, 2.15).

OTHER SPORT
ICE HOCKEY: British League, premier division: Durham Wasps v Whitley Warriors (6.30).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Advantage is with Widnes

By Keith Macklin

The busy Boxing Day programme includes not merely the usual outstanding derby games, but a top of the-table encounter. The present leaders, Bradford Northern, entertain the perennial challengers, Widnes, in a game which should give Odsal its biggest crowd of the season.

Widnes are recovering from their recent crop of injuries and are building up to full strength for the final of the John Player Trophy. Northern, who had to struggle dourly against Fulham, may find a rejuvenated and fit Widnes side a little too much for them.

The chances of Fulham gaining their first away win seem as remote as ever. A couple of months ago they might have taken advantage of Leeds's fall from grace but the Headingley team are unbeaten since the arrival of the new coach, Maurice Bamford, and have reached the final of the John Player Trophy. The other first division games are appetezing derbies between Castleford and Wakefield Trinity, Oldham and Salford and the traditional Boxing Day game between Wigan and St Helens.

In the second division, Bramley, playing better now, can take a couple of points at home to Dincaster; Barrow, the runaway league leaders, should have no difficulties at Huyton.

There are many morning kick-offs and these include the Castleford game, and those at Bramley, Dewsbury v Batley, Huddersfield v Halifax, and York v Hunslet.

Two games are played onn Tuesday: Hull's home fixture against the slowly reviving Featherstone Rovers, their conquerors at Wembley in May, and the derby game between Warrington and Leigh.

FOR THE RECORD

ICE HOCKEY
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia Flyers 5, New Jersey Nets 0; Quebec Nordiques 4, Montreal Canadians 1; Minnesota North Stars 4, Boston Bruins 2; New York Islanders 6, Washington Capitals 1.

WEIGHT–LIFTING
SOFIA: Clean-and-jerk: 1, N Terjiyski (Bul), 150.5 kg (world record).

RUGBY UNION

Busy Bath over-indulge in the festive season

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Christmas is a time of over-indulgence and some clubs are in danger of sufferng from fixture indigestion. Bath, for instance, may be making too much of a good thing, with games against Pontypool last night, Clifton on Boxing Day, improving Northampton a week today and Cardiff two days later. Heavy fixtures lists have long been an accepted part of life in Wales and the West Country without. It is sometimes said, making unduly heavy demands on leading players because many clubs operate a squad system.

Players who take part in club training, in regional and national squad sessions, as well as club and representative matches, tell a different story. They would not be there if they did not want to be, but rugby's treadmill does nothing to improve the quality of the product. In that respect the enforced rest taken today by the players of Rosslyn Park and Coventry may be no bad thing, although it is ironic that Park should have spent so much money this season in improving their Roehamption pitch only to have a cancellation imposed by waterlogging.

Coventry can conserve their energies for the Boxing Day battle with Moseley, who take the side that beat Bedford last week down to Ebbw Vale today but will restore Head to their front row on Monday. Ebbw Vale are without their captain, Dennehy, the Wales B back row forward, who is working.

Bridgend, piped earlier in the season by Cardiff by two points, seek revenge at the Brewery Field. In 26 games Bridgend have scored 639 points and two of their younger players, Griffiths in the centre and Hywel Davies, the full back, are knocking on the same door whicch their wing, Titley, passed through last month when he was capped by Wales against Romania.

Griffiths played much of his youth rugby with Ring, the Cardiff centre capped last season against England but who faces a late fitness test for today's game. Cardiff are without two front row forwards, Phillips, the injured hooker, and Whitefoot, under suspension after being sent off in the Welsh Cup game with Treorchy last week.

Three Treorchy players were dismissed in the same game and one of them, Chris Jones, a prop, has been banned for five years by his club. This is a prime example of a club, accepting responsibility for the actions of its players. Disciplinary committees hold regular meetings but if the clubs themselves take action the life of the game's administrators would be considerably eased.

In the North great Yorkshire rivals meet at College Grove, where Wakefield play host to Headingley. oth clubs took notable scalps last week, Headingley beating Sale and Wakefield ending the unbeaten run of Orrell. Headingley welcome back for the first time this season Ellison, the Cambridge University no 8.

Another Cambridge player, Smith, the right wing, makes his first appearance for Wasps who take their unbeaten record to Blackheath. Both these clubs have beaten Leicester in the last five weeks but whereas Blackheath fell from grace the week after doing so, Wasps go marching on.

Another London derby brings together Harlequins and Richmond at the Stoop Memorial Ground. Weekes, who came on as a replacement in the win over Bath last Saturday, retains his place for Harlequins who have Borthwick at prop

This game counts for the London merit table; another game of merit takes place at Kingsholm where Gloucester play Plymouth Albion. Victory will ensure that Gloucester play in next season's John Player Cup after failing to qualify for this season's competitiion.

South on the high road

By Iain Mackenzie

The Scottish district championship reaches its climax today when South meet Glasgow at Hawick in what is in effect the playoff for the title.

South have played three and won three. Glasgow have wins against Edinburgh and North but were beaten when the Anglo-Scots visited Hughenden.

The chances of Glasgow beating the Borderers on their own pitch are slim. Glasgow have won this encounter only twice in 31 years in the Borders.

There is an interesting duel in prospect behind the scrum where Sandy Service, possibly the best uncapped scrum half in Scottish rugby history, he is opposed by Gordon Hunter, the Selkirk player who hopes to take over from Roy Laidlaw in the national side.

There is, too, John Beattie, the Lion's No 8, who is pitted against South's Sean McGaughey, a rising star from Hawick. McGaughey made his mark when South beat Edinburgh at Myreside lat week. He scored two tries in three minutes and he must feature in the Scotland trial at Murrayfield on the first Saturday in January. McGaughey, born in Hawick of Irish parents, is in his first season in senior rugby.

If Glasgow can subdue McGaughey today, they will achieve their first win in the Borders

Match to aid blind soldier

Newbridge are to play a charity match in aid of a 20-year-old Gwent soldier, Andy Bull, who was blinded by a terrorist bomb in Belfast this year.

Their press officer, Tony Browning, said the club have a link with the Royal Regiment of Wales, having played them during a German tour last May. It is hoped to stage the match in March and the proceeds will go to the Andrew Bull appeal fund. Bull, whose home is at Nantyglo, near Brynmawr, is spending Christmas in the military hospital at Woolwich.

● Leicester have sold all 16,000 tickets for Wednesday's match against the Barbarians.

Sporting oddities in the passing parade

When chance was the fool's name for fate



Conner: That sinking feeling

To win is human: to foul things up on a cataclysmic scale is a talent of a higher and rarer order. For this has been a year of twin-left-footed forwards, of leaden-shod athletes and jockeys and helmsmen with haywire steering, or error piled on sporting error, a year when, as undying glory beckoned, the hapless hordes sat on fate's whoopee cushion, the year of the blunder – like all other years.

Take Gordon Smith. Brighton, ludicrous underdogs, on the edge of an impossible win over Manchester United in the FA Cup Final, and the ball comes to Smith, leaving him clear with only the goalkeeper to beat. Destiny in his hands, ball at his feet, and he blew it. It was the goalkeeper, and not the forward, who seized the moment. Brighton lost the replay, in fact they were thumped out of sight, paying the penalty for failing to seize their moment.

India's cricketers are also in the process of getting thumped out of sight right now, at the hands of West Indies. But India, of course, seized their moment, and astounded the world, by winning the Prudential World Cup, defeating West Indies in the final at Lord's. It was made possible by the failure of their batsmen, particularly Vivian Richards and Clive Lloyd, whose apparent determination to win the game single-handed against donkey drop bowling saw them hole out, both catches taken by that flashing-eyed desperado, Kapil Dev.

India's win was an incomparable piece of sorcery, an adept siezing of a moment that will never present itself again. This is precisely what Ivan Lendl did not do when he faced Jimmy Connors in the final of the US Open. Lendl, at set-all, has a set point on his own service ... and served a double fault. You really must not show signs of human frailty to a bully like Connors: Connors won 6-3, 6-7, 6-0, with Lendl doing an impersonation of a pricked ballon.

Boxing's more bizarre moments were provided by such lesser lights of the game as Micky Kilgallon, who, in the middle of a bout at the Bloomsbury Crest, and being in receipt of a volley of advice and abuse from his manager, Ernie Fossey, turned round in mid-fight to say "Sorry, Ern" before carrying on with the contest. Then there is the mystery of Dave Stewart in the ABA heavyweight semi-finals. Stewart got changed and walked into the arena, took one look at it all, and turned round and went back again.



Faldo: rub of the green

The great golfing foul-up of the year was provided by a spectator, who decided to help Nick Faldo by chucking his ball on to the green at the World Matchplay tournament at Wentworth. A bigger man in golfing, or perhaps in other terms, might have taken the law into his own hands here, but Faldo went along with the rules and the referee and played the ball from where the mystery man had thrown it. He did himself and golf a power of good by showing no sympathy at all for the victim, his opponent Graham Marsh, who promptly took three putts, two from a distance from which Faldo might, in the circumstances, have given him.

Dennis Conner is responsible for the waterman's foul-up of the year through his feat in the final race of the American Cup, in which he managed to turn a 57-second advantage into a 41-second defeat, thereby guaranteeing himself a place in history.

Steve Ovett, the alleged master of tactics, somehow made the most spectacular hash of things in the 1,500 metres final in the world championship boxed in in eighth place at the bell, while for rugby, the year's disaster has been the professional circus that it meant to be starting up in January, but has become a project remarkable for as much hot air as the Montgolfier brothers and as much heart-stopping action as in India v Pakistan Test match.

Being Charlie Nicholas probably counts as one of the year's major disasters: poor old Charlie, transferred from Celtic to Arsenal for £750,000 in an attempt to stop the Arsenal jokes, has instead become one. Still, as Boy George said, lots of people prefer a teddy bear to an Action Man.

Lester Piggott, of all people, perpetrated racing's boob of the year by deciding not to ride All Along in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. Piggott's own choice, Awaasif, was nowhere, but All Along, piloted by the seventh choice jockey, Walter Swinburn, won, and went on to raid America, winning the Rothmans International, the Turf Classic and the Washington DC International, and winning a total of $2.5m. That's fouling it up on a grand scale.

Finally, there can be only one winner, a man who makes so much clear about sport. He is not, in fact a sportsman, but a man who works on the railways. Yes, the ticket collector who threw the West Indian cricketer Colin Croft off a train for being in a whites only compartment has made the ultimate statement on sporting politics on the subject of South Africa. Now another 12 months of glory and disaster await us on the gloriously trivial field of sporting endeavour. I can't wait to enjoy it. And I do hope Charlie manages to score.



Ovett: not saved by the bell

Simon Barnes

CRICKET: A GOOD WICKET IN MELBOURNE, A WET WICKET IN MADRAS

Australia lose Hogg and Pakistan gain confidence

From Ian Brayshaw, Melbourne

Rodney Hogg, the Australian fast bowler, has withdrawn from the team for the fourth Test match against Pakistan, starting here on Boxing Day, because of a back injury. He will be replaced in the 12 by John Maguire, of Queensland.

Australia lead 1–0 in the series but their selectors have almost thrown it wide open with their puzzling decisions to overlook the claims of the fast bowler, Rackemann, that he was fit enough to resume after missing the third Test through injury, and to include a couple of relatively unknown spinners, Matthews and Bennett.

Rackemann, a tall and awkward customer, earned a huge psychological advantage over the Pakistani batsmen in the first two Tests. Having proved his fitness during the week, he looked certain to be recalled to try to regain some of Australia's edge, which appeared to evaporate when the tourists had three century-makers in their only innings in the third Test. Instead, the selectors called up for the first time bowler, Maguire, a tall, lean, right-arm fast-medium bowler, who has developed into a good into-the-wind performer.

The choice of Matthews, aged 24, a busy, right-arm orthodox spinner and handy late middle-order batsman, is remarkable. His credentials read: 11 first-class games, 23 wickets at 34.73 each, career-best performance three for 41; career-best batting performance 86 in a total of 495 runs, average 41.25.

Bennett, aged 27, bowls left-arm orthodox. He has played only three games this season for a total of eight wickets, five of them in the first innings of a Sheffield Shield game last weekend. In his favour it must be said that he was a regular member of the New South Wales side last season, with the good return of 36 wickets, a performance which won him a tour to Zimbabwe with the Australian youth team.

So the Australian attack, which looked so formidable in the first two Tests, then showed signs of vulnerability in the third, now begins to look paper-thin. The pace bowlers are Lawson (with 11 wickets from the three Tests), Lillee (seven) and Maguire, and they have a huge contract to try to wrest the initiative away from the Pakistani batsmen.

The turf which has provided wickets at the Melbourne ground for decade after decade has been completely replaced and 10 inches beneath the new surface is an electric blanket which has stimulated excellent early-season growth. So, for once, the forecast is for a good cricket wicket.

The Pakistanis, no doubt bolstered by their good performance in Adelaide, when Australia had to scramble on the last day to avoid defeat, will go into this game with a warm glow of confidence that they can turn the tables and level the series. Their captain, Imran Khan, has been given the all-clear to play, but, strangely, his availability could almost prove an embarrassment when it comes to naming the 11 starters.

There is some doubt that Imrans leg injury has cleared up sufficiently for him to be counted as a bowler in a five-day game, and that is where the complications lie. Logically he could replace, and bat usefully but failed twice with the bat in his first appearance last weekend and is looking somewhat like a square peg trying to fit into a round hole.

Whenever there is speculation about Pakistani's ability to win a test series, invariably it centres on the wiles of the spinner, Qadir. However, having seen him fail the test when everything was going his way in Adelaide, one doubts whether he has the ability to provide a match winning performance on Australian wickets.

If Pakistan are to win - and one senses they just might - it will be because they have begun to bat to potential and are at last bowling with a plan and a purpose. And as they prepare for this game they might well cast their minds back to the last time the two teams met on the Melbourne ground. That was two years ago, when Pakistan batted first, declared at 500 for eight and then bowled Australia out twice to win by an innings and plenty.

AUSTRALIA (from): K J Hughes (captain), K C Wessels, W B Phillips, A R Border, G S Chappell, G N Yallop, R W Marsh, J Maguire, M Bennett, G Matthews, D K Lillee, G F Lawson.

PAKISTAN (from): Imran Khan (captain), Mudassar Nazar, Mohsin Khan, Qasim Omar, Javed Miandad, Zaheer Abbas, Salim Malik, Rashid Khan, Abdul Qadir, Wasim Bari, Garfraz Nawaz, Azeem Hafeez.

Imran: back again, and looking for victory

W Indian innings back on even keel

Durban (Reuter) – A sparkling century by Alvin Kallicharran helped carry the unofficial West Indian team to comparative safety on the opening day of their four-day match against a South African XI yesterday.

Kallicharran and his captain, Lawrence Rowe, put on 154 for the fourth wicket in 201 minutes to take the score to 241 after their side had slumped to 87 for three. They progressed to 250 for four, when bad light ended play 50 minutes early. Kallicharran finally fell for 103 shortly before the close, but Rowe remained unbeaten on 66.

Three leading stroke-players fell in the opening 20 overs. Bacchus was forced to retire after dislocating a finger when he was struck by a ball from le Roux. After treatment Bacchus said he would bat again if required.

The touring team, who won the toss, were 97 for three at lunch. Trotman thrashed 21 in 27 balls, as the West Indians raced to 34 in six overs, before he played an injudicious back-foot drive and edged le Roux's widish away swinger to second slip.

Bacchus had made 19 when he was forced to leave the field. Kallicharran and Lynch added 42 in even time before Lynch and King fell in the space of an over. Lynch holed out at mid-on against the off spinner, Kourie, and King hooked the second ball he faced from Rice straight into long leg's hands.

Kallicharran moved to his 50 in 135 minutes, off 86 balls, but was never troubled as he moved to within sight of his first century of the tour. At tea he was 88 not out, with Rowe, who began uncertainly, particularly against the leg spin of Hobson, reaching his 50 just before the break on an easy-paced pitch.

WEST INDIANS: First Innings

S F A F Bacchus, retired hurt	19
E N Trotman C Pollock b le Roux	21
M A Lynch c Hobson b Kourie	26
A I Kallicharran c Hobson b le Roux	103
C L King c Jeffries b Rice	0
*L G Rowe not out	66
†D A Murray not out	3
Extras (B5, LB3, W1, NB3)	12
Total (4 wkts)	250

F da C Stephenson, D R Parry, E A Moseley and S T Clarke to bat. FALL OF WICKETS: 1–34, 2–86, 3–87, 4–241.

BOWLING: Le Roux 15-2-47-2; Jefferies 13-0-61-0; Kourie 24-2-85-1; Rice 11-2-26-1; Hobson 10-1-35-0; Kirsten 1-0-4-0.

SOUTH AFRICAN XI: S J Cook, Fotheringham, *P N Kirsten, R G Pollock, K S McEwan, C E B Rice, A J Kourie, T R V Jennings, S T Jeffries, G S le Roux, D Hobson.

TENNIS

Australia almost at breaking point as the Swedes relax

Melbourne, (Reuter) – With the Davis Cup final between Australia and Sweden only two days away, neither country is certain of which players to select. Both Neale Fraser, the Australian captain for the past 13 years, and the Swedish coach Hans Olsson are expected to reveal their selections just before the draw at Kooyong on Christmas morning.

Fraser admitted after a day-long practice session that the position "has never been more open." He said he would have a deep think before making his decision. His main problem revolves arond the temperamental teenager Pat Cash, the chief protagonist among the Australian team. He has been told by Fraser to cool his hot-headed attitude during practice sessions. Cash and John Fitzgerald were the key players in Australia's semi-final victory over France but Fitzgerald, too, has caused concern since, chiefly because he has suffered from inconsistent form and tension this week.

Either one of them could be replaced by the lively Paul McNamee, who partners Mark Edmondson in the doubles. Both players showed sparkling singles form as they practised on the centre court. McNamee demonstrated that he deserves serious consideration for a singles spot while Edmondson, described by Fraser as looking "as strong as a bull," played near perfect serve and volley tennis. He must also be in the running for a place in the singles.

McNamee had a sharp edge over Cash in the first session and the 18-year-old's temper flared briefly when he missed a return. He hurled his racquet onto the court, smashing it in two.

Following the incident, Fraser sat down with Cash for a quiet, private "talk about things in general."

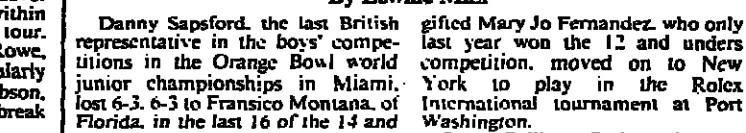
In contrast to all the uneasiness in the home camp, the Swedes appeared utterly relaxed, although they, too, are uncertain about their line-up. There is a feeling among the Scandanavians despite non-committal comments from Olsson, that Joakim Nystrom may be given the second singles berth instead of Anders Jarryd.

This follows Nystrom's triumph, not only against Cash in the New South Wales Open semi-final last week, but his victory over the American Mike Bauer in the final. Earlier in the tournament Bauer had defeated Jarryd, who in spite of his excellent past Davis Cup record may only be used in the doubles. He and Hans Simonsson are regarded as one of the top three combinations in the world.

The pressure is obviously going to be on Mats Wilander, Sweden's number one since his remarkable Australian Open victory. He is expected to win both his singles. By playing doubles only in Sydney last week, Wilander appears to have sharpened up his serve-and-volley game which is absolutely essential for grass court tennis. He has also surprised observers by showing a preference for a singly-handed backhand over his best shot which is hit double-fisted.

As if Fraser did not have enough problems with his players, the weather and the state of the centre court have also concerned him. With no heatwave predicted the forecast is in favour of the Swedes, who had no complaints after practising on the well-grassed surface. All the players were slipping but it was Fraser, who said he felt the surface was "very greasy and dangerous". The Australian cracks are certainly showing.

Cash: feeling the tension



Sapsford last to go

By Lewine Mair

Danny Sapsford, the last British representative in the boys' competitions in the Orange Bowl world junior championships in Miami, lost 6-3, 6-3 to Fransico Montana, of Florida, in the last 16 of the 14 and under age group.

In spite of his defeat, Sapsford, a marvellously entertaining little player, must have left the court very much happier than Montana's three previous victims, none of whom had contrived to take a game from the second seed.

Sapsford's encouraging performance in reaching the last 16 was matched by Julie Donovan and Anne Sumpkin in, respectively, the 12 and under girls and the 14 and under sections. Miss Donovan, who won the Royal Palm Christmas Classic a few miles down the road the week before, bowed out to Pam Coiffi; Miss Simpkin was beaten by Miss Coffi's older sister.

Now along, with Teresa Catlin, who went out in the last 32 to the gifted Mary Jo Fernandez, who only last year won the 12 and unders competition, moved on to New York to play in the Rolex International tournament at Port Washington.

Sarah Sullivan Belinda Bprneo, Suzie Mair, Alison Grant and Jo Louis leave Miami for Boston on December 27 to meet up with the LTAs women's national team manager, Sue Mappin. The five will play in three satellites events before returning to Britain towards the end of January.

● An increasing powerful challenge by the Spanish contingent saw three of their squad reach the quarter-final round of the under 18 men's competition. Jose Bardou beat Richie Reneberg of the United States, 6-2, 6-2. David de Miguel defeated Valerio Bocchitto, of Venezuela, 6-4, 6-0 and after dropping the first set to Joe Bugner, of the United States, Emilia Sanchez went on to win 5-7, 6-2, 6-0.

Byes for top four in Masters

New York (Reuter). – Mats Wilander, Ivan Lendl, John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors, seeded one to four respectively, were given first round byes in yesterday's draw for the $400,000 Masters tournament.

The New York tournament, for the top 12 points winners on the grand prix circuit, opens on January 10 with the sixth-seeded Jimmy Arias playing his fellow American, Johan Kriek, seeded 12, and Jose Higueras (7), of Spain, facing Jose Luis Clerk (9), of Argentine. Yannick Noah (5) of France, Andres Gomez (8) of Ecuador, Eliot Teltscher (10), of the United States and Tomas Smid (11) of Czechoslovakia complete the entry.

Provided there are no surprises, the semi-final line-up will be: Wilander v McEnroe, and Lendl v Connors. The winner will receive $100,000 and the runner-up $60,000. Peter Fleming and John McEnroe, five times Masters doubles champions, are again seeded first, with Anders Jarryd and Hans Simonsson, of Sweden, second.

PROGRAMME: Jan 10: J Arias v J Kriek; J Higueras v J L Clerc. Jan 11: Y Noah V T Smid; A Gomez v E Teltscher. Jan 12: M Edmondson and S Stewart v C Kirmayr and C Motta; M Wilander v winner of Higueras-Clerc; J McEnroe v winner Arias-Kriek; P Slozil and T Smid v Tim and Tom Gullickson. Jan 13: I Lendl v winner of Gomez-Teltscher; J Connors v winner of Noah-Smid; P Fleming and J McEnroe v winner of Edmondson-Stewart v Kirmayr-Motta; A Jarryd and H Simonsson v winner of Slozil-Smid and Tim and Tom Gullickson. Jan 14: Singles semi-finals. Jan 15: Singles and doubles finals.

The cup runneth over

Düsseldorf (Reuter) – Six of the world'd top eight players, the strongest field to date, have agreed to take part in the 1984 World Team Cup for record prize-money of $531,000. The annual contest on the clay courts of the Rochus Club here from May 21 to 27, vies with the Davis Cup as the unofficial world team championship.

The organizers said that Ivan Lendl, of Czechoslovakia, John McEnroe and Jimmy Arias, of the United States, Mats Wilander of Sweden, the spaniard José-Luis Clerc, of Argentina, were in the seven teams chosen.

selection of the main teams – Argentina, Australia, Italy, Czechoslovakia, holders Spain, Sweden, and the United States, who are competing for a first prize of $200,000 – was based on current individual computer rankings of the Association of Tennis Professionals. An eighth (wild card) team will be announced nearer the starting date.

Botham case unresolved

Donald Carr, the secretary of the test and County Cricket Board, will make one last attempt today to dissuade Ian Botham from playing football for Scunthorpe United over Christmas. Carr will ask Botham to make the forthcoming England tour to New Zealand, Pakistan and Fiji – his first priority.

Carr said yesterday: I know that Ian has got himself fit and enjoys playing soccer for Scunthorpe but his first priority must be to the tour team. I spoke to the Scunthorpe manager Allan Clarke today and he felt it was up to Ian to decide whether he played football or not.

Scunthorpe meet Hull on Boxing Day and Preston 24 hours later. The cricketers leave Britain next Thursday. Carr was unable to contact Botham yesterday.

Knott stays on

Alan Knott, the former England wicketkeeper, has signed a new one-year contract with Kent. Brian Luckhurst, Kent's cricket manager, said yesterday: "We reckon he is still the best wicketkeeper-batsman in the world."

Rain washes out first day of Test

Madras, (Reuter) – Incessant rain has already washed out today's opening day in the sixth and final Test match between India and West Indies. The ground is waterlogged and further rain is forecast.

The match will not affect the outcome of the series in which West Indies have a winning 3-0 lead.

The pitch has been protected by the best covering facilities at any Test venue in India and the ground has a reputation for draining quickly.

Elaborate arrangements have also been made to mop up the outfield, but several hours of sunshine will be needed before the ground is in a playable condition.

Test matches in Madras have been hit by rain more often than at any of the regular centres, this being the third instance in the last six seasons.

This Test could be Clive Lloyd's last as West Indies' captain. He relinquished the leadership after his countrys defeat by India in the Prudential World Cup final at Lord's last June, but was persuaded to stay on for at least the current tour.

Lloyd, who celebrated his thirty-ninth birthday just before setting out on the trip, has captained West Indies in 59 Tests, a world record. Lloyd is now non-committal about his future in international cricket, but after scoring two hundreds and two fifties in the current series, he might be inclined to continue playing, even if he decides to step down from the captaincy.

With the start of the Test likely to be delayed at least until Monday, neither side was inclined to name their team yesterday. West Indies are expected to pick their 11 from the same short list of 12 they announced before the fifth Test.

HOCKEY

Cheshire to settle argument

By Sydney Friskin

An argument will be settled in the traditional Boxing Day match between Cheshire and Lancashire at Bowden, (2.15). Lancashire need to win but a draw will be enough to take Cheshire into the preliminary round of the county championship, where they will play Warwickshire at home on January 29.

Bowden is a lucky ground for Cheshire, who won twice there before the event was switched last year to Liverpool Sefton, where Lancashire won 2-0 and went on to take the county title. Lancashire's performances this season have been disappointing but they are hoping to raise their game.

The bad news for Cheshire is that Buchan, their outside right, is out of action with a back injury and Robbie Smith, their centre forward, has tendon trouble. He is in the squad but is unlikely to play. In Buchan's absence Grimley, from the England under-21 squad, takes over as right wing and Greene will probably lead the attack which is well equipped on the left with Renchaw and Brogdon controlling this flank.

Lancashire have lost Nicolson, who has opted out in favour of the indoor game, but with Egerton, Scottish international, Tottey, Jolly Campbell and Hurry all available, their attack doew not lack sharpness.

In more relaxed atmosphere down south another traditional match will take place on the same day at Cheam when the President's XI will play the club first XI (11.0). Tony Bennett, the club president, having earlier relied, to his disadvantage, too many players who have seen their best days, has now recruited several players still on the active list.

Today's premier division match in the London League between Teddington and Slough has been postponed.

YACHTING

Britons sail in by 13 runs

From John Roberson, Sydney

It was a mixed day of work and relaxation here yesterday for the British team contesting the Southern Cross Cup. Lying second to the New Zealanders, the team were leaving no stone unturned in their preparations for the final event, The Sydney to Hobart race.

This blue water classic, which starts on Boxing Day, counts for triple points and the British are hoping for a continuation of the variable conditions that have characterized the series so far. Although the New Zealand yachts – Pacific Sundancer, in particular – are fast, British tactics are superior, so constant changes of conditions would be to their advantage.

All three British yachts were hauled out of the water early yesterday morning to have their bottoms and keels scrubbed before the sun got too hot; sails were laid out to dry in the park next to the marina and checked for possible damage. For some Britons this is their first experience of Christmas in the sunshine, so after work it was relaxation, Australian style. A game of cricket, accompanied by a few tins of beer, was one match the British won, beating the Australians by 13 runs. The home team had previously beaten the New Zealanders.

The start of the Sydney to Hobart race promises to be spectacular with a record 178 yachts lining up for the mass departure from Sydney Harbour. Yachting interest in Australia is high after the America's Cup; the usual large number of spectators that take to the harbour in all sizes of boats, and crowd every promotory around it, is expected to be doubled this year.

Towering over the rest of the fleet will be the maxi yachts which have been contesting the South Pacific maxi championships, run concurrently with the Southern Cross Cup. The largest of these are Marvin Green's Nirvana from the United States and Bob Bell's Condor, which was registered in Bermuda and built in Penryn, Cornwall. Both are 81 feet long and will be trying to break the course record, Condor having set a record for the Fastnet race earlier this year and Nirvana having achieved a similar feat in the Bermuda event.

SOUTHERN CROSS CUP: 1, New Zealand, 305 pts; 2, Britain 280; 3, Hongkong, 258. SOUTH PACIFIC MAXI CHAMPIONSHIP: 1, Nirvana (US); 2, Condor (Bermuda); 3, Freight Train (W Australia).

Head start for Australians

Perth (AFP) – The Royal Perth Yacht Club, new holders of the America's Cup, have launched their campaign to defend the trophy during the 1987 series in the Indian Ocean, off Western Australia.

The Alan Bond syndicate have begun scientific evaluations of the course, between City Beach and Rottnest Island, the state's most popular playground. The study will have a significant influence on the type of boat to be built.

The syndicate director, Warren Jones, said: "We are determined to have the best assessment of the race environment. We are striving for perfection and we'll do anything we can which might give us an extra few inches.

"We are monitoring wave heights and patterns and wind strengths now because this is the time of the year when the defence will be held."

Preliminary racing begins in three years' time, with the first race in defence of the Cup on January 31, 1987.

RACKETS

Spurling's service is decisive

By William Stephens

Adrian Spurling, of Tonbridge, yesterday joined the roll of public schools rackets singles champions on the H.K. Foster Cup which include William Surtees and Howard Angus, former world champions, and the prime minister's son Mark Thatcher. Spurling defeated Alan Giddins, the Etonian second seed, 15-1, 15-4, 15-6 in the final at Queen's Club.

Following the extraordinary success of the Tonbridge second pair of older brother Jonathan Spurling and Graham Cowdrey in reaching the final of the Noel Bruce Cup last month, the school's supporters witnessed at yesterday's final an exhibition of total dominance from probably the best player they have produced since J.R. Thompson.

Having been severely tested in the previous day's semi-final by Rupert Owen-Browne, aged 16, his former partner in the schools doubles championship winning pair, Spurling yesterday seized the initiative through service. His sharply-cut service from the left box and a particularly effective backhand service from the right bemused his opponent. Giddins nervously lunged forward taking several faults volley off the side wall and hit down, and when he took the ball from round the walls the limitations of his double-handed backhand stroke were exposed, his swing being constricted by cramped footwork.

Spurling has assessed the consistent accuracy of Giddin's service so when his opponent was in hand, the Tonbridgean attacked by volleying. In the rallies Spurling's correct single-handed technique, balance and footwork were superior and he ruthlessly outpaced and outmanoeuvred Giddins who hit the ball too high off the wall from where Spurling drove the ball to a length out of his reach.

Despite Giddins's gritty resistance in the third game, when Spurling made his mistakes, the Tonbridgean outclassed his opponent by keeping the pressure tight and never letting him gain control. This talented all-round games player goes up to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, next year.

Radley produced both finalists for the Renny Cup. Conolly Morris-Adams beat James Hunter 15-9, 15-2, 15-12 by placing the ball with studied care, yet he was confident enough to kill the ball inches above the board from the back of the court.

●Yesterday's picture from the above competition was of Rupert Owen-Browne, and not as stated.

Life at the top of the slopes is hard for the unsung heroes

Uphill struggle for Britain's World Cup downhill skiers

Val Gardena, Italy (Reuter) – The downhill skiers of Switzerland and Austria are national heroes but their almost unknown challengers from Britain face an uphill struggle for honours.

While skiing is a way of life for many in the Alps, it is a minority sport for the British and, for those who compete internationally, an expensive and little-recognized passion which calls for extra motivation.

"There's intense competition to get into the Austrain and Swiss teams and their skiers have outside pressure to succeed," Britian's brightest hope Martin Bell, aged 19, said.

"A British skier faces little pressure, so you need extra personal motivation", Bell said, after finishing fourteenth in a World Cup downhill here, his best result to date.

This resort in German-speaking northern Italy was the scene of Britian's finest skiing hour of recent years when Konrad Bartelski came second in a World Cup downhill two seasons ago.

But that unexpected British achievement was dismissed by many who saw Bartelski's surname and assumed the British-born sportsman was a Pole skiing for Britain. Four months travelling round the mountains of Europe to race in the World Cup is an expensive business for Bell, his brother Graham, aged 17, and Freddie Burton, the most experienced member of the British team. Equipment is no problem as manufacturers either give or loan the dozen skis, various helmets, boots, suits, goggles and gloves needed; a sponsor's minibus provides transport.

Costs are partly met by grants and other sponsors but, as for many non-professional sports in Britain, all expenses are rarely covered. Parents have to dig deep into their pockets to keep their sons as full-time skiers either training or competing abroad for up to eight months of the year.

"It's a double burden for our parents, who aren't particularly well off," Martin Bell said "If you get into the top 100, you might make a little money but you won't cover your costs until you're among the best."

The three skiers have hired an Austrain coach, Franz Oberleitner, for the World Cup season but have none of the technicians whose preparation of skis is often decisive for other teams. Martin and Graham Bell take turns to wax and hone the edges of their skis.

The Bells, like other British skiers, found their way into the team after they were singled out in national junior competitions in the Cairngorms.

THE SKI that looks as if it has stubbed its toes on a French Alp. Short and stubby is the new chic on the slopes this Christmas. This creation by an Alsatian called André Speckbacher is two feet long and eight inches wide and fits snugly into a rucksack. For those who are figuring on a short glissade down the white gradients of Chamonix or Méribel this holiday, the name of the ski is Figl.

Chinese launch full scale challenge

Team of 200 for the Games

Peking, (Reuter) – China will send 200 competitors to the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles even thouth they have a long way to go to catch up in some events, a senior sports official said yesterday.

This will be China's first full appearance at the Olympics since the revolution in 1949, the Chinese Olympic Committee spokesman Wu Zhongyuan said at a news conference. "We don't think we will get very good results" he said.

But Wu added that Chinese competitors stood a chance of winning medals in seven or eight events including gymnastics, diving, shooting, women's volleyball, some track and field events, weightlifting and perhaps fencing and archery. "In other events we have a long way to catch up," he said.

China will also take part in men's basketball, swimming, judo, wrestling, cycling, rowing, canoeing and yachting.

Chinese sporting success was set back by the lack of international competition and by the late Chairman Mao Tsetung's radical political campaigns culminating in the cultural revolution from 1966-76. It is only now catching up. Wu said the Chinese athletes had reached international standards in about a third of the 40 sports practised in China.

"That's to say we are still pretty poor in two-thirds of the events," he added, listing swimming, some track events and football.

He said China would enlist Brazilian coaches to groom their football players next year, and Bulgarians have been helping with rhythmic gymnastics.

Whether China enters further events in Los Angeles such as men's volleyball and water polo, will depend on performances in qualification tournaments early next year, Wu said.

According to Wu, China's first Olympic entry was a one-man squad and his coach at the 10th Olympiad in Los Angeles in 1932. The athlete, a sprinter, came nowhere. After the 1949 revolution China sent some competitors to the 1952 Helsinki Games but they were late and took part only in the swimming.

China then left the International Olympic Committee because the IOC recognized Taiwan. They rejoined in 1979 – just in time to boycott the 1980 Moscow Games because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The Chinese attended the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid in 1979. Next Februay at Sarajevo, a squad of 40 Chinese will enter speed and figure skating, alpine and Nordic skiing, and the biathlon.

For the 1984 Olympics, the Chinese government is investing three million yuan ($1.5m) for training, housing, transport and extra food to supplement the usually austere Chinese diet, about 100 coaches, doctors and officials will accompany the competitors.

In Los Angeles, the organizers said that like any good business, the corporate-sponsored 1984 summer Olympic Games should make a profit.

Under a formula negotiated when Los Angeles agreed to host the games, 40 per cent of the surplus will go to the United States Olympic Committee, 40 per cent to the amateur sports facilities in southern California, and 20 per cent to the governing bodies of US sports organizations.

GYMNASTICS

Putting art at risk

By Peter Aykroyd

Gymnastics' trend of developing high-risk moves means that the artistic side of the sport is losing out, Eberhard Gienger, the former West German world horizontal bar champion, said at the national and regional coaches conference at Lilleshall national sports centre this week.

He contended that, while dangerous moves were spectacular, in the long run fewer gymnasts would be prepared to tackle them and so the sport's popularity would contract. Artistic expression was the basis of modern gymnastics and it should continue to be a major influence.

Big entry for Strasbourg gala

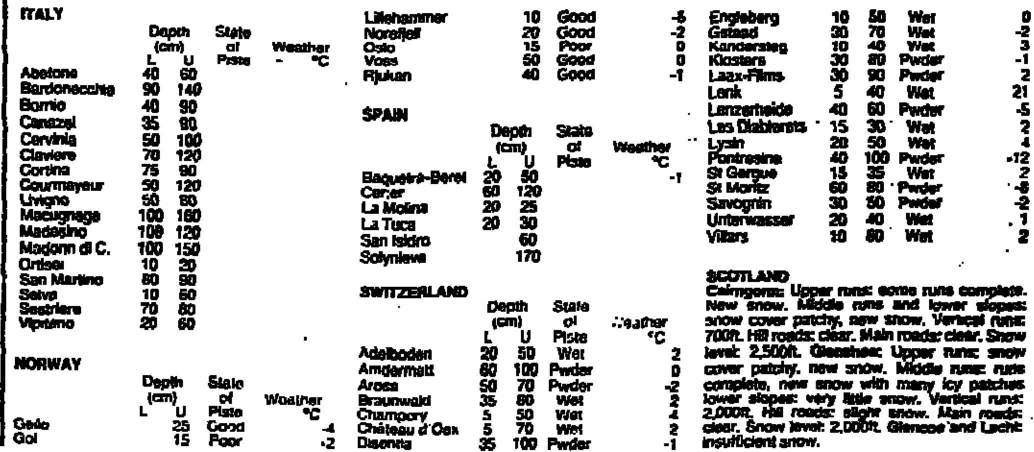
Paris (AFP) – A Chinese team will compete for the first time in a French 50 metre pool at an international swimming meeting in Strasbourg from January 20 to 22. The party of 10, including six swimmers, will remain in France for the Boulogne-Billancourt short-course meeting, which a Chinese team last attended in 1982.

The Strasbourg gala, established only last year, has attracted entries from 21 nations. Vladimir Salnikov, holder of the world 400 metre and 1,500 metre records, will be the big attraction.

The United States will not be competing in Strasbourg, but England and West Germany will be there. The Strasbourg meeting will include diving, water polo and a demonstration of synchronized swimming.

BOXING

Sugar Ray Leonard will be introduced by the World Boxing Council as the No.1 contender for their welterweight title when he makes his comeback in February.

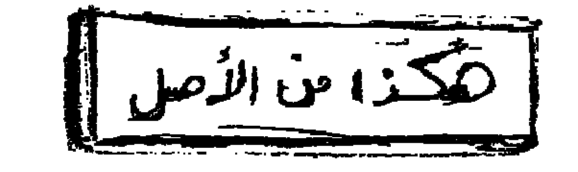


CONDITIONS AT EUROPEAN SKIING CENTRES

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather °C
ITALY				
Abetone	40	60		
Bardonecchia	90	140		
Bormio	40	90		
Canazei	35	90		
Cervinia	50	100		
Claviere	70	120		
Cortina	75	90		
Courmayeur	50	120		
Livigno	50	80		
Macugnaga	100	160		
Madesino	100	120		
Madonn di C.	100	150		
Ortisei	10	20		
San Martino	80	90		
Selva	10	50		
Sestriere	70	80		
Vipiteno	20	60		
NORWAY				
Gelio		25	Good	-4
Gol		15	Poor	-2
Lillehammer		10	Good	-5
Norefjell		20	Good	-2
Oslo		15	Poor	0
Voss		50	Good	0
Rjukan		40	Good	-1
SPAIN				
Baqueira-Beret	20	50		-1
Cerler	60	120		
La Molina	20	25		
La Tuca	20	30		
San Isidro		60		
Solynieve		170		
SWITZERLAND				
Adelboden	20	50	Wet	2
Andermatt	60	100	Pwder	0
Arosa	50	70	Pwder	-2
Braunwald	35	80	Wet	2
Champery	5	50	Wet	4
Château d'Oex	5	70	Wet	2
Disentis	35	100	Pwder	-1
Engleberg	10	50	Wet	0
Gstaad	30	70	Wet	-2
Kandersteg	10	40	Wet	3
Klosters	30	80	Pwder	-1
Laax-Flims	30	90	Pwder	2
Lenk	5	40	Wet	21
Lenzerheide	40	60	Pwder	-5
Les Diablerets	15	30	Wet	2
Lysin	20	50	Wet	4
Pontresina	40	100	Pwder	-12
St Gergue	15	35	Wet	2
St Moritz	60	80	Pwder	-8
Savognin	30	50	Pwder	-2
Unterwasser	20	40	Wet	1
Villars	10	80	Wet	2

SCOTLAND

Cairngorm: Upper runs: some runs complete. New snow. Middle runs and lower slopes: snow cover patchy, new snow. Vertical runs: 700ft. Hill roads: clear. Main roads: clear. Snow level: 2,500ft. Glenshee: Upper runs: snow cover patchy, new snow. Middle runs: runs complete, new snow with many icy patches lower slopes: very little snow. Vertical runs: 2,000ft. Hill roads: slight snow. Main roads: clear. Snow level: 2,000ft. Glencoe and Lecht: insufficient snow.



Kempton Park

GOING: good.

Tote: double 1.40, 2.45. Treble: 1.10, 2.15, 3.15

[*Television (ITV) 1.10, 1.40 and 2.15 races*]

12.40 PORT WINE CHASE (Novices: £2,434: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

102 1-11b2f CAPTAIN DYNAMO (D) (H Plotnek) D Nicholson 7-11-8 ... P Scudamore
105 4b033-0 BEE STING (Mrs P Harris) P W Harris 7-11-0 ... –
106 202022- CARVED OPAL (Mrs G Abecassis) F Winter 5-11-0 ... J Francome
110 04f14-2 LEAN AR AGHAIDH (Mrs W Tulloch) S Mellor 6-11-0 ... J Perrett
113 333000 POOR EXCUSE (O Henley) O Henley 8-11-0 ... W Worthington
114 002p4-3 SLIEBEMORE (H Brown) J Edwards 5-11-0 ... –
115 14244-0 SORBIELLER (D Wates) R Gow 5-11-0 ... R Rowe

Evens Captain Dynamo, 11-4 Carved Opal, 11-2 Lean Ar Aghaidh, 10 Bee Sting, 12 Sliebemore, 16 others.

1.10 FOOD BROKERS-ARMOUR HURDLE (novices: £3,548: 2m) (10)

202 020-112 DESERT ORCHID (D) (R Burridge) D Elsworth 4-11-10 ... R Linley
205 10 KALAMONT (D) (Mrs L Sampson) J Gifford 4-11-3 ... R Rowe
207 1 SUNYONE (Queen Mother) F Walwyn 5-11-2 ... W Smith
210 30 GOLD EPEE (J Stungo) D Nicholson 5-11-0 ... P Scudamore
213 22-0fp NO-U-TURN (S Tindall) S Mellor 5-11-0 ... M Perrett
214 WINART (S Shefra) G Pritchard-Gordon 5-11-0 ... Mr D Browne
217 0-3 COASTAL RUN (Mrs A Chapman) P Mitchell 4-10-10 ... R G Hughes
219 0-4 DERBY DILLY (Lt-Col U Corbett) K Bailey 4-10-10 ... J J O'Neill
223 I HAVENTALIGHT (B Brazier) F Winter 4-10-10 ... J Francome
225 043 DEEP IN DEBT (Mrs P Jubert) P Haynes 4-10-5 ... J Lovejoy

5-2 Desert Orchid, 3 Sunyone, 4 Kalamont, 11-2 I Haventalight, 7-2 Coastal Run, 10 Derby Dilly, 14 others.

1.40 LADBROKE CHRISTMAS HURDLE (Grade I: £15,776: 2m) (10)

301 /130-4f CIMA (D) (R Padmore) J Old 5-11-3 ... –
302 21111-1 GAYE BRIEF (D) (Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin) Mrs M Rimell 6-11-3 ... R Linley
303 -232320- JANUS (CD) (K Little) Mrs N Smith 5-11-3 ... M Harrington
304 122210 MIGRATOR (CE) (Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin) Mrs M Rimell 7-11-3 ... J Burke
305 2/p10-2 THE FOODBROKER (D) (Food Brokers Ltd) P Haynes 7-11-3 ... P Scudamore
307 11134-0 ALASTOR O MAVROS (D) (M Perakticos) J Gifford 4-11-0 ... R Rowe
308 2120-10 RA NOVA (D) (D Travers-Clark) Mrs N Kennedy 4-11-0 ... –
309 21102-0 WOOLOW WILL (CD) (Mrs P Foul) F Winter 4-11-0 ... J Francome
310 121-112 DAWN RUN (D) (BF) (Mrs C Hill) P Mullins (IRE) 5-10-12 ... J J O'Neill
311 0040-14 STANS PRIDE (D) (Mrs M Morgan) 6-10-12 ... –

15-8 Gaye Brief, 3 Dawn Run, 10 Wollow Will, 12 Migrator, 16 The Foodbroker, 20 others

FORM: Dawn Run (12-3) 2nd beaten 3l to Boreen Deas (rec 22lb) 9 ran. Naas 2m hdle yielding Dec 7. Gaye Brief (12-0) won very easily 3l from Migrator (rec 3lb) 5 ran. Newcastle 2m hdle good to firm Nov 12. Alastor O'Mavros (10-8) 5th beaten 11l to Admirals Cup (gave 13lb) 11 ran. Ascot 2m hdle good to firm Dec 17. Stans Pride (rec 13 lb) 4th beaten 5l to Very Promising (gave 13 lb) with Wollow Will (rec 7 lb) 9 ran. Cheltenham 2m hdle good to firm Dec 10. Cima latest fell, earlier (11-0), 4th beaten 27l to Buck House (gave 8 lb) 7 ran. Newbury 2m 100yd hdle good to firm Nov 26. The Foodbroker (12-0) 2nd beaten 10l to Mr Sunbird (rec 25 lb) 10 ran. Ayr 2m h'cap hdle good Nov 19.
SELECTION: Gaye Brief.

2.15 KING GEORGE VI CHASE (Grade I: £21,768: 3m) (6)

401 12211-f BREGAWN (CD) (BF) (J Kennelly) M W Dickinson 9-11-10 ... J J O'Neill
402 43p-111 BROWN CHAMBERLIN (D) (Mrs B Samuel) F Winter 8-11-10 ... J Francome
403 11f-021 FIFTY DOLLARS MORE (C) (Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin) F Winter 8-11-10 ... R Linley
405 0-11111 THE MIGHTY MAC (D) (Mrs J Lane) M W Dickinson 8-11-10 ... Mr D Browne
406 43/0p-0 TWO SWALLOWS (CD) (G Steinberg) R Armytage 10-10-10 ... P Scudamore
407 3213-11 WAYWARD LAD (CD) (Mrs S Thewis) M W Dickinson 8-11-10 ... R Earnshaw

15-8 Wayward Lad, 3 Bregawn, 7-2 The Might Mac, 4 Fifty Dollars More, 8 Brown Chamberlin, 150 Two Swallows.

FORM: Bregawn latest fell 3 out when a likely winner, earlier (12-0) won 5l from Captain John (levels) with Wayward Lad (level) 3rd beaten 6½l 11 ran. Cheltenham 3m 2f chase good to soft Mar 17. Fifty Dollars More (11-10) won 1l from The Tsarevich (rec 18 lb) 13 ran. Cheltenham 2m 4f h'cap chase good to firm Dec 10. The Mighty Mac (11-10) won 20l from Another Breeze (rec 22 lb) 7 ran. Ascot 3m h'cap chase good to firm Dec 17 Wayward Lad (11-12) won sh hd from Fifty Dollars More (level) 4 ran Huntingdon 2m 4f chase good Nov 29. Brown Chamberlin (11-6) won 10l from Gaye Chance (rec 8lb) 12 ran. Newbury 3m 2f h cap chase good to firm Nov 26.
SELECTION: Bregawn. (If absent Wayward Lad).

2.45 BOXING DAY HURDLE (handicap: £2,880: 2m) (14)

502 2230-3p HASTYU STORM (D) (Mrs G Brazier) F Winter 6-11-10 ... J Francome
504 02p3-p0 GREAT LIGHT (B Atkinson) J Jenkins 5-11-8 ... J J O'Neill
506 33002-0 LULAV (CD) (P Hanniford) D Nicholson 5-11-5 ... P Scudamore
510 41102-1 HARESCEUGH (D) (D Graham) N Gaselee 5-11-1 ... Mr P Maceman 7
512 211110/ CHARLIE MUDDLE (CD) (S Tindall) S Mellor 8-11-0 ... M Perrett
514 0-11111 SILVER WIND (D) (Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin) Mrs M Rimell 4-10-11 ... R Linley
518 1012-03 WHOLE SHEBANG (BF) (G Schjelorup) A Turnell 4-10-3 ... E Waite
519 001/0 SO BRAVE (CD) (C Glyn) S Mellor 5-10-1 ... S Jobar
521 0-0233 SEA PENNANT (D) (I Jones) I Jones 7-10-0 ... –
524 014-f43 PIEROTH (D) (P Fahey) G Kindersley 5-10-0 ... –
525 02010-0 RETURN TO POWER (D) (D Wickins) S Pattemore 4-10-0 ... –
528 0f1233/ LOAN CHARGE (D) (J Berry) J Berry 7-10-0 ... –
529 641p- REEDMACE (D) (J Levy) C Read 5-10-0 ... J Hughes 4
530 043004/ SLIM BOY (Mrs C Williams) M Haynes 6-10-0 ... –

9-4 Silver Wind, 100-30 Haresceugh, 4 Hasty Storm, 6 Lulav, 8 Whold Shebang, 10 Charlie Muddle, 14 others.

3.15 FALKLANDS CHASE (handicap: £2,590: 3m) (11)

601 2440-1 CRIMSON EMBERS (B) (Mrs S Smart) F Walwyn 8-11-6 (8 ex) ... S Shilston
604 0210-00 DODDINGTON PARK (D) (Mrs C Prideaux) N Gaselee 10-11-7 ... R Linley
605 80-2211 BROADHEATH (CD) (M Marsh) D Nicholson 6-11-6 (8 ex) ... P Scudamore
606 311-041 TRACYS SPECIAL (D) (Maj J Rubin) A Turnell 6-11-3 (8 ex) ... E Waite
608 2121pp INTEGRATION (D) (E Retter) E Retter 9-11-2 ... –
609 1212-13 FREDO (CD) (Sir R Wates) J Gifford 10-11-0 ... R Rowe
610 f11204- DON'T TOUCH (D) (R Short) J Jenkins 9-11-0 ... J Francome
611 332p-20 CANFORD GINGER (A Sykes) D Elsworth 8-10-10 ... –
614 1p4/40p RIDAN TOWER (C) (Mrs A Davies) J Gifford 8-10-0 ... J J O'Neill
615 40p34-p FORT BELVEDERE (D) (P Deal) G Thorner 8-10-0 ... –
616 p30-f12 BALLYGORE (C) (BF) (N Cabburn) D Thom 7-10-0 ... –

5-2 Crimson Embers, 7-2 Broadheath, 4 Tracy's Special, 6 Fredo, 8 Ballygore, 10 Doddington Park, 12 Ridan Tower, 15 others.

Kempton selections

By Michael Phillips

12.40 Captain Dynamo, 1.10 Desert Orchid, 1.40 Gaye Brief, 2.15 Wayward Lad, 2.45 Haresceugh, 3.15 Tracy's Special.

Wetherby

Going: Soft

12.30 CHRISTMAS HURDLE (Div I: 4-y-o: £690: 2m) (18 runners)

1.0 ROWLAND MEYRICK CHASE (handicap: £7,266: 3m 100yd) (8)

1.35 BICKERTON HURDLE (Handicap: £2,329: 2m 4f) (12)

2.5 JOHN HAGGAS CHASE (Novices: £4,194: 3m 100yd) (12)

2.35 CASTLEFORD CHASE (Handicap: £3,616: 2m 50yd) (6)

3.10 CHRISTMAS HURDLE (Div II: 4-y-o: £690: 2m) (18)

21 003 TRICKSHOT (D Hunt) K Stone 11-0 ... –
22 00 BRIGHT IMP (R Bethell) P Calver 10-9 ... A Stringer
23 LUCYLET (G Robinson) Mrs G Reveley 10-9 ... G W Gray
24 MAGJOY (Miss D Clinton) C Wardman 10-9 ... –
25 0-f2 SWOP SHOP (J Ennis) M H Easterby 10-9 ... A Brown

Evens Bright Sherif, 7-2 Swop Shop, 6 Maladhu, 7 Trickshot, 10 Compactor, Qudesa, 16 others.

Wetherby selections

By Michael Seely

12.30 Money From America. 1.0 Prince Rowan. 1.35 Mas Park. 2.5 Forgive N' Forget. 2.35 Badsworth Boy. 3.10 Bright Sherif.

George Syvret, the veteran amateur rider, has promised to give the Jockey Club a "very rough ride" in his continuing battle to renew his licence. Syvret, aged 67, from Backford, near Chester, again failed a medical at Portman Square this week, despite his claims that there is nothing wrong with him "physically or mentally."

The Jockey Club's doctor claims Syvret's blood pressure is too high for him to be riding in races. However, Syvret said: "He's the only doctor out of many I've seen who can find anything wrong with my blood pressure." Syvret, who has ridden in more than 100 races, *continues to ride work for his* trainer, Mick James, at Whitchurch. "When we ride out it's always the kids who are blowing, not me," Syret said.

RACING: BREGAWN WAITS ON THE GOING IN CLASSIC ENCOUNTER AT KEMPTON PARK

Wayward Lad's waiting game to pay off again

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

With Bregawn, Brown Chamberlin, Fifty Dollars More, The Mighty Mac and Wayward Lad all standing their ground for Monday's King George VI Steeplechase, this year's Boxing Day feature at Kempton Park is certainly living up to its high tradition. Those five are the winners of the Cheltenham Gold Cup, the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup, the Kennedy Construction Gold Cup; the SGB Steeplechase and of course the King George itself and you do not often get a better cocktail than that.

However, Michael Dickinson said yesterday that Bregawn would only run if the going was *good to soft. Bregawn will travel* to Kempton and Dickinson will make a decision after walking the course.

The extraordinary aspect is that the "big five" are trained by just two men – Michael Dickinson and Fred Winter. Winter's own *link* with the race now goes back more than 30 years to 1952 when he rode *Halloween to victory.* In the meantime, more winning rides on Halloween again and Saffron Tartan and training successes with Pendil in successive seasons has ensured that his name will be revered for ever in Kempton's own hall of fame.

Recent years have seen another name dominate the history of the race – that of *Dickinson in one guise of* another: first Tony and thenhis son, Michael, thanks to the achievements of Gay Spartan, Silver Buck (twice) and Wayward Lad.

Now, with all respect to Roddy Armytage and Two Swallows – the only other runner declared for Monday's epic – only Winter stands in the way of the Dickinson family retaining their vice-like grip. With The Mighty Mac and Brown Chamberlin blazing the trail, it should be a marvellous spectacle. At the end of it all I expect to see Wayward Lad repeat his triumph of a year ago and so ensure that Michael Dickinson treads yet more fresh ground by becoming the first man to train the winner of the race three times in a row.

While admitting that going for Wayward Lad is flying in the face of this year's Cheltenham Gold Cup result – he was beaten six and a half lengths by his stable companion, Bregawn – not to mention The Mighty Mac's amazing surge to the top this autumn, I still think that Wayward Lad is Dickinson's natural first string for this race and the horse most likely to win it. He was at his peak when he *beat Fifty Dollars More and* Silver Buck 12 months ago and there is every reason to believe that he will outstay Fifty Dollars More once again.

However, he was nowhere near his peak when he was beaten by Bregawn at Cheltenham. It is common knowledge that he met with a setback in training which prevented him from running between Boxing Day and mid-March. However, Wayward Lad's preparation for Monday's race has gone without hitch, whereas Bregawn's reappearance was halted time and time again because of the ground this autumn and when he did finally reappear at Haydock 10 days ago he fell, albeit when holding a winning chance.

The Mighty Mac's victory at Ascot a week ago was impressive, but when analyzed it may not have been quite all that it was cracked up to be. Take a line through Approaching, for instance. At Ascot The Mighty Mac gave that old war horse 22lb and a 26-length beating. At Newbury, the month before, Brown Chamberlin gave Approaching 17lb and a 35-length beating.

This suggests that there should not be much between Brown Chamberlin and The Mighty Mac at the end of the ding-dong struggle over three miles and that they could both be vulnerable when Robert Earnshaw decides that the moment is ripe to press the button on Wayward Lad.

Earlier in the afternoon the Ladbrokes Christmas Hurdle looks like being the perfect foil for the big steeplechase with the champion hurdler, Gaye Brief, and Dawn Run taking one another on again. At Liverpool last April there was only a length between the two at the end of the Templegate Hurdle. Now, on a pound better terms, Gaye Brief should confirm his superiority.

Earlier in the day, Desert Orchid is my idea of a banker bet to win the Foodbrokers Armour Novices Hurdle now that he is reverting to two miles *after failing to stay further*

Tracy's Special should be equally hard to beat in the Falklands Steeplechase after that emphatic victory over Plundering at Lingfield Park.



Wayward Lad shows the sort of spring-heeled jumping that has taken him to favouritism for the King George Chase

Remember Forgive N' Forget

By Michael Seely

Forgive N' Forget can take his first step along the road towards chasing fame by winning the John Haggas Memorial Novices' Chase at Wetherby on Monday. Brunton Park is Michael Dickinson's chosen representatives as the champion trainer attempts to capture all six races on his local track, but on their form together over hurdles Forgive N' Forget should prevail.

At Cheltenham last March, Jimmy Fitzgerald's six-year-old landed the gamble of the meeting when beating Brunton Park in the Joe Coral Golden Hurdle final. Not only did the favourite win by three lengths, he was also conceding 12lb to his victim. On Monday they meet at level weights.

On his first appearance over fences at Stratford in November, Forgive N' Forget failed only by a *neck to beat Lettoch. More recently* he was an expensive failure when falling at the eighth fence in the race won by Knock Hill at Doncaster. However, Fitzgerald excuses that lapse. "It wasn't his fault, he slipped going into the fence."

However Brunton Park fares, Dickinson should win the Rowland Meyrick Chase with Prince Rowan. After winning four novice chases in succession for the stable last season, Prince Rowan created a major surprise in the Tommy Whittle Chase at Haydock. Despite looking backwards in the paddock, he jumped like a buck before beating Little Owl by five lengths, although he would probably only have finished second if Bregawn had not fallen at the third from home. Prince Rowan recorded a fast time and as he meets Little Owl on 15lb better terms, he is sure to start a short-priced favourite.

Dickinson also has an outstanding chance of winning the remaining four races. It is difficult to oppose Badsworth Boy in the Castleford Handicap Chase. Last season this *versatile horse was one of the easiest* winners ever seen at the National Hunt Festival when beating Artifice by a distance in the Queen Mother Champion Chase. On his reappearance at Haydock, Badsworth Boy fell at the first fence in the race won by Clayside. Peter Easterby's nine-year-old has obviously recaptured much of the ability which saw him win the Arkle Challenge Trophy at Cheltenham two seasons ago, but it is hard to see him beating Badsworth Boy with a 5lb penalty.

Macs Park faces a more difficult task in the Bickerton Handicap Hurdle. The winner of two races of this type in Ireland a couple of seasons ago when trained by Jim Bolger, the six-year-old appears to be reasonably treated with 10st 6lb.

Lawnswood Miss is at the peak of her form at present. Before her recent Doncaster victory Reg Hollinshead's mare would have won more decisively at Cheltenham if John O'Neill had not dropped his hands close home. FitzGerald also thinks that Prelko has recaptured the form that saw him win three *handicaps last season. However,* Macs Park still gets the vote.

Dickinson can also land a double at Market Rasen with Red Mills (2.15) and Londolozi (3.15).

More racing, page 34

Huntingdon

Going: Good

12.30 ST IVO HURDLE (Div I: novices: £834: 2m 4f) (16 runners)

1 4-221 CELTIC TIME A Turnell 6-11-7 ... E Waite
2 2222 CHUCKBUCK S Smith 6-11-7 ... –
4 0200 ALANGROVE SOUND N Brookes 5-11-0 ... Mr N Brookes
10 00- EASTER BRANDY P Allingham 5-11-0 ... –

32 1-r40 QUALITAIR PRINCE M Ryan 4-10-0 ... –
34 0000 MARUBENI T Rollingson 6-10-0 ... –
35 4p0-0 HIGH POPPA O Brennan 4-10-0 ... S Keightley
36 000/4- THE CHOSEN ONE ...
37 0202 TOUGH CUSTOMER ...
38 0211 TOO FAMILIAR ...
39 p-40p FRENCH HOBBY ...
40 00044 BATON MATCH ...

1.0 PEPYS CHASE (handicap: novices: £1,558: 2m 4f) (11)

3 1212 MASTER TERCEL (D) J Spearing 7-11-6 ... –
5 bf-31 ROYAL TO DO T Forster 7-11-2 ... G McCourt
6 1f20 PREMIER CHARLIE (D) P W Harris 5-11-1 ... –
7 002-3 SANDREK Miss F Geddes 10-11-0 ... –
11 0324 TAKEAFENCE M Henriques 5-10-7 ... –
12 2pff LANDAS SLAVE H O'Neill 7-10-7 ... –
13 014p COUNTRY HOME D Gandolfo 6-10-7 ... P Barton
15 342-u MALICIOUS RED (B) J Leigh 7-10-1 ... –
16 1002 LORIOT D Dale 6-10-1 ... S Smith Eccles
17 0ffr JUST A GHOST Mrs J French 7-10-0 ... Miss S French 4

8-11 Master Tercel, 4 Royal To Do, 8 Premier Charlie, 12 Loriot, 16 Takeafence, Malicious Red, 20 others.

1.30 OUSE HURDLE (handicap: £1,553: 2m 200yd) (25)

2 1-242 ASH KING (BF) W Musson 4-11-8 ... S Smith Eccles
4 3100 SKATEBOARD (CD) D A Wilson 7-11-6 ... –
10 4041 SHOW BUSINESS J Webber 6-11-1 ... G McCourt
11 0/424 KESWICK N Callaghan 8-10-12 ... –
12 0100- TUTHILL BOND P Allingham 6-10-11 ... –
13 3232 ALFIE DICKINS (CD) (BF) R Hollinshead 5-10-10 ... –
15 1221 BROCKLEY BELLE C Spares 4-10-10 ... –
17 0-212 THE DIPLOMAT (CD) D Ringer 5-10-9 ... S McNeill
19 10-22 SILENT ECHO A Blackmore 6-10-7 ... Mr R Dunwoody 7
21 2102- HAVONAIR J Spearing 5-10-7 ... –
23 21f-0 WESTWAY LAD M Hinchcliffe 4-10-5 ... –
24 3303 QUICKTHORN R Hartop 7-10-4 ... J Barlow
27 010/0- BAZZ'S BOY Mrs B Waring 7-10-0 ... –
28 1000 SUPER BRAT Rex Carter 4-10-0 ... –
29 400 AIRMOUNT J Leigh 6-10-0 ... –
30 4331/ RIVAL C Drew 5-10-0 ... –
31 pf-p0 GALLEA W Guest 5-10-0 ... A Coogan

4 Show Business, 9-2 Ash King, 11-2 Skateboard, 7 Alfie Dickins, 8 Silent Echo, 12 The Diplomat, 14 others.

2.0 PORT HOLME CHASE (handicap: £1,282: 3m 100yd) (11)

2.30 BOXING DAY CHASE (handicap: £1,238: 2m 100yd) (5)

3 1341 RESTLESS SHOT (CD) J Webber 8-11-12 (5 ex) ... G McCourt
5 122p ABERSING D Todd 8-11-4 ... –
6 03p-2 JUBILEE MEDAL N Henderson 6-10-11 ... S Smith Eccles
8 f2-0b OYSTER POND M McCourt 6-10-5 ... –
9 3f11 FALKLAND PALACE (CD) D Gandolfo 6-10-4 (5 ex) ... P Barton

11-8 Falkland Palace, 9-4 Jubilee Medal, 3 Restless Shot, 8 Abersing, 20 Oyster Pond.

3.0 ST IVO HURDLE (Div II: novices: £780: 2m 4f) (14)

4 0-u21 SHOW HOUSE J Gifford 5-11-7 ... P Double
6 40f BEAN ABOUT P Felgate 6-11-0 ... –
7 00-p0 CHALK PIT N Henderson 5-11-0 ... S Smith Eccles
9 32/00 COLDTRIC A Blackmore 6-11-0 ... Mr R Dunwoody 7
10 0008 DIPALLINO B Charnley 7-11-0 ... –
11 0-0 FAMILY VENTURE G Graham 6-11-0 ... –
12 pp- HAPPY HERO C Lea 5-11-0 ... –
13 002/ INTAKE G Kindersley 6-11-0 ... –
14 0000 MARUBENI T Rollingson 6-11-0 ... J Barlow
16 44-0 MISTER BEE K Bailey 5-11-0 ... G McCourt
17 00-0p MUSSEL BED G Thorner 6-11-0 ... –
19 2 NOBLE PHILIP W Guest 6-11-0 ... A Coogan
20 pp-02 RAJENS AIR Mrs B Waring 6-11-0 ... S Keightley
21 f/p NEW PLANET F Sutherland 8-10-9 ... –

11-10 Show House, 5-2 Rajens Air, 6 Noble Philip, 10 Mister Bee, 16 Coldtric, 20 others.

Huntingdon selections

By Michael Seely

12.30 Mighty General. 1.0 Takeafence. 1.30 Ash King 2.0 Netherbridge. 2.30 Jubilee Medal. 3.0 Show House.

Trainers' preferences

The following is a list of preferences for those horses declared at ...

Wolverhampton

GOING: chase, good to firm; hurdles, good.

12.45 NETHERTON HURDLE (4-y-o handicap: £1,203: 2m 4f) (18 runners)

1.15 OLDBURY CHASE (handicap: £1,312: 3m 2f) (12)

1.45 HARRY BROWN CHASE (handicap: £3,501: 2m 4f) (11)

8-11 W Six Times, 9-2 Mullacurry, 7 Ballymilan, 10 Lodges Fortune, 12 Fury Boy, 16 Cardinal's Outburst, 25 others.

2.15 DEEPFIELDS CHASE (6-y-o: novices: £1,010: 2m) (8)

2.45 WALSALL HURDLE (handicap: £1,318: 2m) (20)

3.15 WERKIN HURDLE (novice: handicap: £890: 2m) (17)

DANCE OF LIFE Mrs W Sykes 4-10-7 ... J Bryan
GOOD OFFICES R Griffiths 5-10-7 ... A O'Hagen 4
SCARLET SAGA (D) D Ringer 4-10-7 ... J Williams 7
KASHILL (D) H O'Neill 5-10-7 ... –

Wolverhampton selections

By Our Racing Staff

12.45 Sandwalker, 1.15 Mint Streak, 1.45 Mullacurry, 2.15 Ardent Spy, 2.45 John's Present, 3.15 Pit Your Wits.

Wincanton

Going Good.

Television (BBC1) 1.0, 1.35, 2.5 races.

12.30 STIRRUP-CUP HURDLE (Div I) (4-y-o Novices: £635: 2m) (22 runners).

35 d WILD CORN W Fisher 10-5 ... M O'Halloran

7-2 Floating Lover, 4 Wild Corn, 11-2 Zircon's Sun, 6 Cilema Jet, 8 Silver Maid, 10 Derby Dilly, 12 Crimson Knight, Golden Minstrel, 14 others.

1.0 DAILY MIRROR CHASE (handicap: conditional jockeys: £2,141: 2m) (13)

2 1u21 WATER ROCK (CD) J Thorne 8-11-9 (8 ex) ... P Dever
3 3f1-f BICKLEIGH BRIDGE (D) B Forsey 9-11-7 ... P Croucher
4 32-14 FAR BRIDGE (D) G Balding 7-11-7 (8 ex) ... R Champen
5 31-f3 LUCYFAR (D) F Walwyn 7-11-4 ... R Pusey 3
6 4123 TUDOR ROAD (D) L Kennard 8-11-3 ... –
7 0-021 MIDNIGHT SONG (D) T Forster 8-11-3 ... G Charles-Jones
8 2213 FIRE DRILL (CD) K Bishop 8-10-12 ... W Newton 3
12 011-0 KINGS SINGER (D) J Jewell 9-10-7 ... E Murphy 5
13 4-000 BUTTON BOY (B) (D) N Ayliffe 10-10-7 ... –
16 230-0 ULMAR (D) N Gaselee 8-10-7 ... –
17 10/0f NORTHERN DESPATCH (D) B Scriven 10-10-7 ... B Powell 5
18 2021 CROWNING MOMENT (B) (D) I Wardle 8-10-7 (8 ex) ... –
19 110b METELA R E Pocock 7-10-7 ... M Nuttall 5

100-30 Midnight Song, 7-2 Lucyfar, 4 Water Rock, 6 Crowning Moment, 15-2 Far Bridge, 12 Ulmar, Tudor Road, 14 Fire Drill, 16 others.

1.35 CORAL GOLDEN HURDLE HANDICAP (£3,254: 2m 6f) (24).

3 1112- SWANKY STAR D Gandolfo 7-11-10 ... –
5 04-12 QUEEN'S RIDE (D) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-6 (8 ex) ... –
6 040-8 KNIGHTHOOD A Turnell 8-11-5 ... F Byrne 7
7 4102 KINTBURY M Pipe 8-11-5 ... P Leach
9 3130 ROAD TO MANDALAY D Barons 6-11-2 ... H Davies
10 12-0 ANGEL BANK J A Edwards 6-11-2 ... –
12 210-1 BUCKBE (C) D Gandolfo 4-10-13 (8 ex) ... C Brown
14 1101 SANHEDRIN G Baldwin 8-10-12 (4 ex) ... Mr S Sherwood
15 00-23 COCAINE (C) S Pattemore 5-10-10 ... –
19 103f MAC KELLY T Bulgin 9-10-9 ... –
21 /3101- MAC'S TREASURE J Old 6-10-8 ... –
22 3110 LUCKY GEORGE (CD) L Lightbrown 5-10-8 ... P Nicholls
23 2120 MINERS LODGE (C) W Fisher 10-10-6 ... M O'Halloran
24 -1p03 CANIO R Hodges 6-10-4 ... –

2.5 BETTER BET CORAL CHASE (handicap: £1,954: 2m 5f) (15)

2.35 HARRY DUFOSEE CHASE (handicap: £1,970: 3m 1f) (18)

3.15 STIRRUP-CUP HURDLE (Div II: 4-y-o novices: £639: 2m) (23)

17 0-00 KING'S FOREST L Kennard 10-10 ... C Brown
18 LOVER BOY J Thorne 10-10 ... –
20 NO LIMIT R Hodges 10-10 ... –
21 6 SALFORD VALUE D Nicholson 10-10 ... –
22 6 SCALE THE HEIGHTS P Duggins 10-10 ... –
23 2 SEABATTLE J Gifford 10-10 ... P Nicholls
25 THE REJECT F Winter 10-10 ... B de Haan
28 3300 UNCLE DAI J Thomas 10-10 ... M Williams
30 44 BRAVE MAIDEN M Pipe 10-5 ... P Leach
31 0040-3 CHANTAGE R Blakeney 10-5 ... S Shilston
32 p0-f0 CORAL WINGS R Blakeney 10-5 ... P Hobbs
34 0 MILLERS WAY B Forsey 10-5 ... M Richards 4
36 I MUMMY'S ANGEL S Pattemore 10-5 ... –
37 PINKWORTHY POND T Forster 10-5 ... H Davies

9-4 Rose Ravine, 7-2 Deep Impression, 4 Seabattle, 6 The Reject, 10 Horrors, 12 Brave Maiden, 16 others.

Wincanton selections

By Michael Phillips

12.30 Derby Dilly. 1.0 Water Rock. 1.35 Rigton Beau. 2.5 Lodge's Fortune. 2.35 Koga Way. 3.5 Rose Ravine.

Market Rasen

Going good.

12.45 RISBY HURDLE (selling: £580: 2m) (19 runners)

1.15 LIMBER HILL CHASE (novices: £1,042: 2m) (11)

1.45 KILVINGTON HURDLE (handicap: £1,814: 2m 4f) (11)

2 22-01 GRINDERS (CD) E Carter 5-12-0 (7 ex) ... C Pimlott
4 2011 SANDMOOR COURT (D) H Westbrook 5-11-8 (7 ex) ... –
5 1-004 PRELKO (CD) (B) J Fitzgerald 8-11-3 ... O'Leary
7 4010/ MACS PARK M W Dickinson 6-10-13 ... –
9 FP-00 CAP TOO (CD) (B) J Blundell 7-10-12 ... D Dutton
10 1P00 SANTA NOEL J Leigh 7-10-8 ... –
13 0-00P HARDY RANCH O Brennan 4-10-4 ... K Whyte
18 P0P0- STRADMAN (C) D A Griffiths 10-10-0 ... –
19 11-00 KING OF STRESS (BF) (C) W Hardy 5-10-0 ... S Johnson
20 0120 ODIC R Wright 5-10-0 (7 ex) ... –
21 4000 MESA KID F Gibson 4-10-0 ... –

9-4 Grinders, 11-4 Sandmoor Court, 7-2 Macs Gift, 5 King of Stress, 8 Odic, 12 others.

2.15 BRUCE CARR CHASE (novices: £2,139. 3m) (16)

2 0-121 RED MILLS (D) M W Dickinson 10-12-0 ... K Whyte
4 1P-2U FORGIVE N'FORGET (BF) J Fitzgerald 6-11-9 ... –
6 P44/0- LAW VENTURE Mrs P Sly 9-11-9 ... –
7 342-U MALICIOUS RED (B) J Leigh ... –
8 220-F SKEWSBY (BF) M W Easterby 7-11-9 ... Mr R J Beggan 4
9 0/0B-1 ANDROMA J FitzGerald 6-11-7 ... R O'Leary
11 1012- BRUNTON PARK M W Dickinson 5-11-6 ... –
16 0304 POWDER HORN Mrs J Barr 6-11-4 ... Mr N Tutty 7

2.45 ACCURATE HURDLE (novices: £837: 2m) (19)

3.15 KERNEL CHASE (handicap: £1,501: 2m) (18)

12 0/042 GAY INVADER (D) G Fletcher 9-10-5 ... –
13 1230 DEAR REMUS (D) J Harris 11-10-5 ... –
14 P1-4F LOCH RYAN HOUSE (CD) O Brennan 6-10-5 ... C Pimlott
15 0008 WARREN GORSE (CD) S Avery 9-10-5 ... –

13-8 Londolozi, 9-4 Royal Radar, 9-2 Mr Marlsbridge, 6 Gay Invader, 8 Dear Remus, 12 others.

Market Rasen selections

By Michael Seely

12.45 Marnie's Girl. 1.15 Cybrandian. 1.45 Cap Too. 2.15 Red Mills. 2.45 Chuckbuck. 3.15 Londolozi.

Hurdles campaign is on for So True

By Phil McLennan

So True, only just short of top class on the Flat this year, is to be aimed at the Triumph Hurdle and will make her debut over timber at Chepstow on Tuesday. Leading bookmakers are taking no chances with the daughter of So Blessed and quote her at 33-1 for the Cheltenham race before she has even jumped a hurdle in public.

Toby Balding, the filly's trainer, and Miss Bridget Swire, her owner-breeder, thought long and hard before deciding to campaign her over hurdles. "She is a valuable property and we were not sure whether to risk her", Balding said. "But she has schooled really well, loves soft ground and Miss Swire is keen that she should take her chance. My only doubt is that she is not very big."

So True will have her first run in the Finale Hurdle – the race in which Decent Fellow, also trained by Balding, made his debut seven years ago. Decent Fellow, who is rated by Balding the best horse he has trained, went on to finish second in the 1977 Triumph Hurdle and won the Irish Sweeps Hurdle later that year.

"If she runs well at Chepstow, she will then take in the Stroud Green Hurdle at Newbury and the KP Hurdle at Kempton before tackling the Triumph", Balding said. The juvenile championship has never been won by a filly, but Balding confirmed that the Triumph was "very much" her target.

Regardless of how she fares over hurdles, So True stays in training for the 1984 Flat season and Balding already has her earmarked for a group two race at Sandown in April. This year she beat Shareef Dancer, the subsequent Irish Sweeps Derby winner, at level weights in the Esher Cup at Sandown and twice finished second in group company, chasing home Give Thanks in the Musidora Stakes at York and Jupiter Island in the St Simon at Newbury. All these



Toby Balding: expanding his Flat team.

races were run on soft ground and her preference for some give underfoot means she will have a better chance than most high-class Flat recruits of reproducing her best over hurdles.

Balding and Miss Swire have high hopes of a big-race double on Tuesday, as Lucky Vane has a leading chance in the Coral Welsh National. The eight-year-old has won his only two races this season at Devon and Exeter and Warwick and he has been trained with the Chepstow race in mind this winter rather than the Grand National. "We may still have a crack at Aintree, but time is on our side and we'll probably wait until next season," Balding said.

The Weyhill trainer is enjoying his best start to a season for several years with 16 winners to date. Ironically, though, he is cutting back on National Hunt operations and expanding his Flat team. "I have 20 good yearlings and should win races with all of them if I do everything right," he said.

Leaders over the jumps

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Days since win	Level stakes
J Jenkins	35	23	5	6	−£61.97
F Winter	34	16	15	4	+£32.02
J Gifford	33	28	25	3	−£16.3
M Dickinson	31	11	2	5	+£5.18
G Richards	31	19	19	5	−£1 66
W Stephenson	29	24	27	4	−£73.59
C Bell	26	22	22	12	−£77.12
D Nicholson	24	22	21	17	−£65.10
L Kennard	20	14	9	1	−£32.67
D Smith	19	13	17	16	−£27.85
Mrs M Rimell	18	21	11	1	−£11.35
M Lambert	17	10	12	13	+£4.77

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
J O'Neill	67	56	39	5	−£54.12
J Francome	56	39	25	0	−£5.06
P Scudamore	54	40	32	2	−£41.80
R Rowe	41	30	22	3	−£37.39
S Smith Eccles	39	34	30	4	−£49.82
H Davies	32	23	29	3	−£55.18
N Doughty	28	24	26	6	−£24.60
P Tuck	27	26	24	7	−£84.86
S Morshead	26	32	14	1	−£12.72
A Webber	26	27	26	6	+£57.65
K Jones	24	18	18	11	−£55.56
G Bradley	19	11	10	11	−£23.12

Newton Abbot

Going: heavy

12.15 SOUTH WEST HURDLE (Div I, Part 1: novices: £756: 2m 150yd) (11 runners)

2 0/ Carp 5-11-10 .... Mr P Hobbs 4
5 0-00 Fer-Kil 7-11-10 .... P Murphy
7 0/0p Friendly Sovereign (B) 5-11-10 C Bourne 7
11 000 High Security 7-11-10 Jessica Turner 7
13 03p- Jagatek 7-11-10 .... –
20 0/p0- Castings 7-11-5 .... –
22 300 Golden Hornet 5-11-5 Mr P Schofield 4
23 1 Graceful Kelly 6-11-5 .... C Evans 7
24 040 Idson Lass 5-11-5 .... P Richards
26 0 Litton Miss 5-11-5 .... George Knight
28 0-0 Welsh Sapphire 7-11-5 .... B Wright

2 Fer Kil, 3 Welsh Sapphire, 7-2 Golden Hornet, 6 Idson Lass.

12.45 SOUTH WEST HURDLE (Div I, Part 2: novices: £756: 2m 150yd) (10)

3 0-00 Composer 5-11-10 .... C Evans 7
4 0-p0 Dickie Bow 5-11-10 .... –
6 f00 Flying Geordie 6-11-10 .... –
8 p0 Garter Star 5-11-10 .... George Knight
9 00/0 Gulf Spring 9-11-10 .... Mr Robinson 4
14 0-0f Levants Lee 5-11-10 .... Mr N Mitchell
15 00/p Majestic Star 6-11-10 Jessica Turner 7
16 000 Mickey Tim 8-11-10 .... –
19 300 Blonde Bombshell 5-11-5 .... –
27 p- Royal Breeze 8-11-5 .... J Hurst 7

7-4 Blonde Bombshell, 9-4 Composer.

1.15 MID DEVON CHASE (novices: £2,795: 2m 5f) (14)

1 021 Crowning Moment (B) 8-11-12 –
3 f0b Metela 7-11-12 .... –
8 20-f Crackmore Lad 7-11-7 .... C Gray
14 001 Hever 8-11-12 .... P Leach
19 f0p Little Ossie 7-11-7 .... –
20 0/p0 Michael Mear 7-11-7 .... P Nicholls
22 p02- North Lane 6-11-7 .... –
23 p3o Pampas Melody 7-11-7 .... J Frost
25 f Prince Buskins 8-11-7 .... –
29 f0u Space Cadet 6-11-7 .... Mr N Dunn 7
33 1/p- Call The Guards 5-11-5 .... –
34 023 Cal Mal 5-11-5 .... Mr P Schofield 4
36 ff3 Langton Siegfried 5-11-5 .... –
42 4-34 Arctic Gipsy 7-11-2 .... C Evans 7

7-4 Hever, 100-30 Crowning Moment.

1.45 SOUTH DEVON HURDLE (handicap: £2,649: 2m 5f 110yd) (18)

2 00-0 Stand Easy 6-11-11 .... –
3 303- Play The Knave 6-11-10 .... C Gwilliam
8 000 Salthouse (B) 6-11-6 .... –
10 1/02 Man In The Middle (B) 7-11-4 R Weaver
11 p03 Canio 6-11-3 .... Mr P Hobbs 4
12 331 Rigton Beau 6-11-2 .... –
14 233 Bedworth Girl 5-10-9 .... J Frost
17 03-0 Le Vert Galant 5-10-3 .... –
18 030- Ninestones 5-10-3 .... –
19 144 Spark Off 7-10-2 .... J Williams
21 00-0 Hit The Road 5-10-1 .... –
22 2/pp Ansty Fox 9-10-0 .... –
23 00/0 Kilosaery Diamond 8-10-0 .... –
24 0-22 Sunshine Gal 5-10-0 .... –
25 p0f Autoway 10-10-0 .... George Knight
27 100/ North Two 10-10-0 .... C Gray 4
29 000- Bannock Prince 5-10-0 .... J Hurst 7
33 00/3 Ashbury Lad 6-10-0 .... –

2 Rigton Beau, 3 Man In The Middle.

2.15 CHRISTMAS HURDLE (selling: handicap: £576: 2m 150yd) (16)

3 f/40 Reales 5-11-7 .... –
6 302 Pampered Gipsy 4-11-5 John Williams
8 0/0p Henrys Wench 4-11-3 .... –
10 409 Middleton Sue (B) 4-11-1 George Knight
11 03-3 Lost Valley 6-11-1 .... –
14 4pp Ted's Choice 4-10-9 .... –
17 000/ Classic Talent 6-10-3 .... –
18 f0-0 Rugby Excavation 5-10-3 Jessica Turner 7
19 000 Testing Times 5-10-3 Miss S Waterman
20 000 Debach River 4-10-2 .... M Williams
21 upu Tudor Squire 6-10-2 .... –
22 p-p0 Lady Vulmid 5-10-2 .... –
23 0p-p Grey Ace 4-10-2 .... –
24 004 Singalong Joe (B) 5-10-2 .... –
26 040 Strass Chanderlier 4-10-2 .... –
27 000 Saulingo Song 4-10-2 .... C Gray 4

3 Pampered Gipsy, 4 Lost Valley.

2.45 WEST COUNTRY CHASE (handicap: £3,052: 3m 2f 100yd) (11)

1 211- Armagnac Princess 11-11-12 J Frost
2 11-0 Herr Capitan 7-11-7 .... Mr E Whettam
3 p-20 Canford Ginger 8-11-4 .... J H Davies 4
4 f1-f Bickleigh Bridge 9-11-2 George Knight
5 000- Romany Count 11-10-11 R Millman 4
7 p11 Giddycan 7-10-8 (4 ex) .... P Richards
9 3/13- Comrie 7-10-6 .... Mr P Hobbs 4
10 30-0 Gilded Gold (B) 7-10-5 .... P Nicholls
11 012 400 Nocte 8-10-2 .... Mr J White
13 00-1 Gallant Prince 8-10-0 L Bloomfield 4
17 02-0 Vulgan's Gift 8-10-0 .... J Williams

11-4 Giddycan, 100-30 Canford Ginger.

3.15 SOUTH WEST HURDLE (Div I: Part 1: novices: £760: 2m 150yd) (12)

1 313 Sammy Lux 5-12-1 .... P Schofield 4
3 Cassanova's Story 5-11-10 P Nicholls
6 p/00 Chuck's Song 6-11-10 .... C Gray 4
7 004/ Costus 7-11-10 .... Sue Waterman
10 000 Gunner Blue 5-11-10 .... –
11 4-00 Indian Major 6-11-10 .... P Richards
13 Midnight Madness 5-11-10 L Bloomfield 4
17 pp-0 Son of Quiver 7-11-10 Jessica Turner 7
18 422- Squire Trelawny (B) 6-11-10 J Frost
22 p00/ Lyn Affair (B) 6-11-5 .... M Yeoman 7
24 300 Meldon Lady 5-11-5 .... B Wright
28 0f/ Wayward Cottage 7-11-5 C Bourne 7

13-8 Sammy Lux, 3 Indian Major.

3.45 SOUTH WEST HURDLE (Div II: Part 2: novices: £760: 2m 150yd) (11)

2 4 Airship 5-11-10 .... G Davies
4 p-p Charlie John 8-11-10 Mr N Mitchell
5 00u Chocolate Imp 10-11-10 .... –
12 fp Lincoln Bennett 6-11-10 .... –
14 000 Norfolk Storm (B) 5-11-10 .... –
15 0-0 Prince's Drive 5-11-10 .... C Evans 7
16 0-p0 Solar Krib 10-11-10 .... –
19 004- Cape Mandy 6-11-5 .... P Richards
25 fp0/ Parti-Prism 8-11-5 .... Mr R Robinson 4
26 Pyjama Game 6-11-5 George Knight
27 Royal Money 6-11-5 .... J Hurst 7

5-2 Norfolk Storm, 100-30 Solar Krib.

NEWTON ABBOT SELECTIONS: 12.15 Litton Miss. 12.45 Composer. 1.15 Hever. 1.45 Rigton Beau. 2.15 Pampered Gipsy. 2.45 Canford Ginger. 3.15 Squire Trelawny. 3.45 Airship.

Sedgefield

Going: Good to soft

12.45 HARDWICK HURDLE (Selling: handicap: £486: 2m 4f) (20 runners)

3 0-34 Rich Discovery 7-11-7 Mr T Jeffrey 7
4 000 Atramo 9-11-7 .... J Harris
5 00/0 Belle Isle Boy (B) 7-11-3 .... –
6 323 Golden Holly 5-11-2 .... –
7 020 Sunspeed 5-11-1 .... K Teelan 7
8 300 Frazer's Friend 6-11-0 S Kettlewell 4
9 20/0- Silken Touch 7-11-0 .... K Jones 4
10 u0 Gale Boy 3-10-13 .... D Wilkinson
13 003 Mendaleek 6-10-13 Mr M Thompson 7
14 0p-p Nitiki 8-10-12 .... –
15 u0u British Prince 4-10-8 .... –
17 00-0 Chaperon 7-10-6 .... Vicki Harris 7
18 fp/0 Amsam 5-10-5 .... –
19 00u/ Fondoon 6-10-4 .... –
20 30/0 Kirkby Lad 9-10-3 .... –
21 000 Call-Me-Morlais 10-10-1 Mr P Avery
22 000 Willoughby James (B) 7-10-1 D Fisher 7
24 004 Lord Charles (B) 4-10-1 .... –
25 40/p Card Palmer 7-10-1 .... –
26 0-00 Stubbington Green (B) 6-10-1 –
22 f00 Houghton Weaver 4-10-0 D Wilkinson
23 030 Little Tempest 4-10-0 .... K Jones 4
24 000 Mr Snow 8-10-0 .... –
25 00-0 Rukotso 4-10-0 .... S Youlden 7
26 200- Santago 9-10-0 .... –

5-2 Mendaleek, 7-2 Sunspeed, 9-2 Chaperon, 6 Lord Charles.

1.15 MORDON HURDLE (Div: I: 3-y-o: novices: £345: 2m) (6)

1 p Gleiming 10-12 .... D Davies 7
3 p0 Midnight Kelly 10-12 Mandy Harrison 7
4 00 Rebel Peril 10-12 .... P Tuck
5 2 Roon The Ben 10-12 .... D Wilkinson
6 Soft Centre 10-12 .... –
8 Brianela 10-7 .... C Fairhurst

11-10 Roon The Ben, 9-2 Brianela, 6 Rebel Peril, 8 Gleiming.

1.45 GASKINS LEISUE HURDLE (handicap: £1,614: 2m 4f) (22)

1 221 On Leave 6-12-3 (3 ex) .... C Brownless
3 000 Baval 6-11-2 .... –
5 00-0 Rejuvenator 7-11-0 .... S Charlton
6 012 Derry Island 7-11-0 .... –
7 3p-0 Gogra Moss 6-10-13 .... –
8 322 Secret Finale 4-10-10 .... D Oldham
10 0/01- Targa 5-10-8 .... P Tuck
11 fpf Jefferson House 4-10-7 .... –
12 000 Ingham 11-10-6 .... M Pepper 4
13 204 Thomas Secret 6-10-5 .... M Barnes
14 21-0 Belle Isle Walk 6-10-5 .... T G Davies 4
15 024 Tynwald Millenium 7-10-4 .... –
16 140 Star Regal 4-10-3 .... –
17 4-04 Pohjola 4-10-2 .... Mr M Meagher 7
18 00p/ Gunsmith 10-10-2 .... N Doughty
20 0-00 Billjoy 6-10-1 .... –
21 00-0 Three Bars 8-10-0 .... J A Harris

7-2 Derry Island, 9-2, On Leave, 11-2 Pohjola, 7 Secret Finale.

2.15 BRADBURY CHASE (handicap: £1,388: 3m 600yd) (13)

2 31-1 Little Frenchman 10-11-13 (7 ex) DOUBTFUL
3 110 Holborn Head 7-11-4 .... K Jones 4
4 1p3 Twiflight 8-11-3 .... N Doughty
5 130- Blackhawk Star 9-11-0 .... –
7 11-2 Great Head Boy 6-11-0 Mr M Meagher 7
8 12-1 Mr Snugfit 6-10-12 (7 ex) .... P Tuck
9 3p0 Owenborn 6-10-9 .... –
10 p31 Bucksome 10-10-8 .... –
11 1-30 Sumit River 6-10-8 .... –
13 114 Ballyice 8-10-5 .... S Youlden 7
16 p-f0 Artic Silver 11-10-2 .... S Charlton
19 000 Yula (B) 10-10-0 .... T D Davies 7
20 -43p Flittermere 12-10-0 .... –

7-2 Mr Snugfit, 9-2 Great Head Boy, 6 Ballyice.

2.45 RENT ROLL CHASE (handicap: £1,030: 2m) (8)

2 2-10 Percipient 9-11-7 .... N Doughty
3 40-p Master Melody 12-11-5 .... P Tuck
4 330 Corker 7-10-7 .... K Jones 4
5 230 Dear Remus 11-10-2 .... J Harris
6 102 Grangeview Lad 6-10-0 .... S Charlton
7 0r3 Saint-Mumo (B) 9-10-0 .... –
8 440 Viscount (B) 9-10-0 Mr M Thompson 7
9 00f Red Knight 7-10-0 .... Mrs J Conway

7-4 Grangeview Lad, 5-2 Percipient, 4 Dear Remus, 6 Corker.

3.15 MORDON HURLDE (Div II: 3-y-o novices: £345: 2m) (10)

1 0 Country Park 10-12 .... –
2 Highland Gold 10-12 .... –
3 0 Humyak House 10-12 Mr M Meagher 7
4 000 Kibsby 10-12 .... P Tuck
6 Maltham Cove 10-12 .... M Pepper 4
7 0 Netherseal Sonny 10-12 .... J A Harris
9 0 Shaw Brow 10-12 .... G Davies 4
10 Waren Ford 10-12 .... M Barnes
11 Pickering Fair 10-7 Mandy Harrison 7
12 0 Proud Outlook 10-7 .... J D Davies 7

11-8 Humyak House, 7-2 Kibsboy, 6 Maltham Cove, 8 Shaw Brow.

SEDGEFIELD SELECTIONS: 12.45 Sunspeed, 1.15 Brianela, 1.45 Secret Finale, 2.15 Mr Snugfit, 2.45 Percipient, 3.15 Shaw Brow.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS and IN MEMORIAM £3.25 a line (minimum 3 lines)

Announcements authenticated by the name and permanent address of the sender, may be sent to:

THE TIMES
200 Gray's Inn Road
London
WC1X 8EZ

or telephoned (by telephone subscribers only) to: 01-837 3311 or 01-837 3383

Announcements can be received by telephone between 9.00am and 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, on Saturday between 9.00am and 12.00noon. (837 3333 only). For publication the following day, phone by 1.30pm.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES, WEDDINGS, etc. on Court and Social Page, £5 a line. 01-837-1234 ext 7714

Court and Social Page announcements can not be accepted by telephone.

Most other classified advertisements can be accepted by telephone. The deadline is 5.00pm 2 days prior to publication (i.e. 5.00 pm Monday for Wednesday). Should you wish to send an advertisement in writing please include your daytime 'phone number

GLORY TO GOD in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. St Luke 2:14.

BIRTHS

ARCHER – On 19th December, to Stella (nee Keller) and Quentin, a daughter, Rachel Sarah Kate

CALDIN. On December 22nd to Rachel and Giles A Son

DAWS – on December 16th in Plymouth to Janet & Nicholas – a daughter Sarah-Jane

EDDY – In Harare on November 17th, 1983 to Sabrina (née Cochran) and Andrew, a daughter Alethea Caroline Rose.

EVERITT. On December 21, to Kate (nee Reller) and Roger – a son (Matthew James)

MACLEAN. On December 19 at St Teresa's Hospital, Wimbledon, to Heather (nee Kirk-Duncan) and Anthony another darling daughter (Suzannah Sheena), a sister for Marina Oulta

MULLERVY–On 10th December 1983 at St. Teresa's hospital, Wimbledon to Mary Louise and Terence, a son (Scott William)–a brother for mark

NAHUM. On December 8th to Fiona (née Ingham) and Andrew, a son, Adam William.

WEBB – On December 14th at Edith Cavell Institute, Brussels, to Jennifer and Michael a son, Timothy James Ferguson

ZEALEY On 20th December to Deborah (nee Smithson) and Richard – a son. David John

BIRTHDAYS

JRH HAPPY BIRTHDAY DARLING and thank you for all the pleasure you give. All our love, Daddy and Mummy

MARRIAGES

COPLAND – GRAHAM. On December 17th at Alloway Church, Ayr William J and Lesley

DEATHS

BLOOMFIELD. On Dec 22, peacefully, Cyril George, aged 79, Barber Emeritus. Beloved husband, father and grandfather. Private cremation followed by a thanksgiving and remembrance service at Christ Church, Radlett, 3 pm Friday, Dec 30. Family flowers only please. Any donations to the Church of England Children's Society

BRUFORD. On Dec 21, peacefully in her 80th year at Plaxtol Nursing Home near Sevenoaks. Rose Elizabeth Fourdel and for many years Principal of The Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama. Loved and respected by all who knew her. Funeral service Tunbridge Wells Crematorium Friday, Dec 30, 4 pm. Flowers to W Hodges and Co. 37 Quakers Hall Lane, Sevenoaks (tel. 0732 454457). Specially requested no friend or relative to feel obliged to attend, and no mourning to be worn

CROALL-MARKHAM. On December 19th, peacefully at home, Barbara, mother of Jonathan and Stephen, widow of John Stuart. Funeral at St Peters Church, Black Lion Lane, Hammersmith W6 on Thursday 29th December at 3pm. Flowers, if desired, by 28th to Chalker and Gamble, 171 Lower Richmond Road, Mortlake, London SW14; but donations very welcome to Bristol Cancer Help Development Trust, Grove House, Cornwallis Grove, Clifton, Bristol BS8 4PG

GOLEGE – STEEL On December 21st, Donald, of Hurley cottage, dearly loved husband and father. Funeral St Mary's Church, Hurley at 2.30pm on Wednesday December 28th. No flowers please

GORDON. On 20th December at All Hallows Hospital, Ditchingham, peacefully, Leonore, aged 73, dear wife of Ernest, beloved mother of John. Service on Wednesday 28th December, 12.30pm at St Michael's Church, Broome. No flowers please

GOTTO. On Wednesday 21 December 1983, peacefully at Manormead Church of England Pensions Home, Caroline Beryl, daughter of the late Rev and Mrs Donald Gotto of Shenley, sister of the late Rev Basil Gotto and loved friend of Joan Glaisyer. Requiem mass at St Augustine's, Queensgate SW7, on 4 January at 2pm. Interment at Putney Vale Cemetery

HAMILTON MOORE. On 22 December, peacefully in Bath, Francis Ian, aged 81 years, of North Wootton, Nr Wells, Somerset, formerly of Malaya, beloved father and grandfather. Funeral service at St Peter's Church, North Wootton, on Thursday, 29 December at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations if desired for the Wells Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade, c/o T Wicks & Son, 13 Sadler Street, Wells. Tel 78884

HARGRAVE-WILSON. On December 22, 1983, peacefully, at his home at Tinderbox, Tasmania, William, aged 77, husband of Diana.

HOPEWELL– On 15th December 1983, in his 93rd year, peacefully at St Mathews Hospital, Northampton Donald Gardner Hopewell of Glebe Cottage, Moreton Pinkney, Daventry, Northants. The last surviving child of the late Mr & Mrs N Hopewell of old Basford, Nottingham. M.A. LL.B (Cambridge) and Hon LL.D of Leeds. Vice President of the Daventry Conservative Association, for 42 years National President of the Incorporated Bronte Society. Cremation at Mansfield Crematorium on Friday, 30th December at 2pm. Enquires to Barnfords Funeral Directors, 7 Shakespear St, Nottingham. A memorial Service will be held at Moreton Pinkney on a date to be announced later

LACEY. On December 23, Barbara, aged 88, youngest daughter of the late Canon and Mrs T A Lacey

MARSHALL. On Dec 21, suddenly in his 80th year, Norris Bishop, B Sc, B.Mus, F.R.C.O. Sadly missed by his wife Rosamund and childen Tricia, Brenda, Robin, Diana, Helen and Carolyn, also 16 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Funeral Friday, Dec 30. Service at St Cuthbert's Church, Philbeach Gardens, Earls Court, SW5, followed by committal at Mortlake Crematorium. Floral tributes and enquiries to F W Paine, 118e High Street, Hampton Hall, Middlesex. 01 977 1206

MOLLOY On 22nd December, Dorothy, widow of captain William Cornelius Marshall and of James Molloy and much loved mother of Pam. After a long and painful illness borne with very great courage. Service Golders Green Crematorium, Thursday, 29th December, 1983, 11.10am. Flowers to J. H. Kenyon, 49 Marloes Road, W8

PILKINGTON – On December 22nd at St Helen's Hospital and of Windle Hall, Windle, St Helen's, Merseyside, William Henry (Harry), Baron of Windle, aged 78 years. Dearly loved husband of Mavis, loving father of Jennifer, John and the late Catherine. Devoted stepfather to April and Nicholas and a dear grandfather and great grandfather. The funeral service will take place on Wednesday, December 28th in the United Reformed Church, Ormskirk St, St Helens at 1.30pm and will be followed by private family committal. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to United Voluntary Organisation, 85 Corporation St, St Helens. Enquiries: W. G. Dixon Ltd, Bickerstaff House, 4 Bickerstaff St. Tel: St Helens 23007

PLUMMER– On 22nd December Ronald George formerly of Dundarroch, Stoughton, Nr Chichester West Sussex. Cremation private. No fowers or letters at his request

ROBERTS – On December 22 at Pontyberem Dyfed, D R (Bobs) Roberts. Funeral Wednesday 28th Dec, 2.00pm Coity Crematorium

THOMPSON On 21st December, at Kings College Hospital, peacefully after a long illness, Hary, much loved husband of Betty and father of Peter, Andrew and Stephen and devoted grandfather. Family funeral on 29th December

VAN THAL. On Dec 23, Herbert after an illness, elder son of the late Bernard and Blanch Van Thal, mourned by his dearly loved wife Phylis and brother Dennis

WEBSTER – Suddenly in Majorca, 18th December, Jack William Webster, retired architect, late of Priors Road, Cheltenham. Funeral enquiries to Selim Smith & Co, Funeral Directors, Cheltenham or Miss A. E. Webster, 257 Brooklyn Rd, Cheltenham

YAPP On 23rd December peacefully at the Churchill Nursing Home, Ronald Payne Hunter, aged 78, of 2 Star Court, Cheltenham, dearly loved husband, father, father-in-law and grand-father. Family funeral. Enquiries to Selim Smith and Co, Cheltenham. No flowers please by request.

IN MEMORIAM

DOCKSEY – In memory of Patrick, dearly loved husband and father, died Christmas Day, 1978, in his 75th year

DRUMMOND-WOLFF, R H.C. Col In memory of a dear friend sorely missed.–Patricia.

HARDIE COLIN, Commander D.S.C., R.N. In memory of the adored husband of Patricia and beloved father of Sally Anne and Colin Neil. Time has passed since you left us, but the memory of you will be clear for ever

MAIN BETTY (Betty Larom) beloved wife of Neville Main. Died December 4, 1972. "The bright day is done –"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST CANCER

Give to the Cancer Research Campaign and you'll be making a real contribution towards conquering cancer. The Campaign has one of the lowest expenses to income ratios of any charity and is the largest supporter in the UK of research into all forms of cancer. Please help with a legacy, a deed of covenant, donation or gift in memoriam. Cancer Research Campaign, Dept TX4, 2 Carlton House Terrace, SW1Y 5AR.

WARRILOW. – Congratulations to Mum and Pop on 50 years of marriage. Best wishes from all your family.

MOST APT, heart and soul, ever yours. Paul

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CHARMIAN (nee Jowitt) and Matthew Barraclough, through circumstances beyond their control are officially homeless on Jan 30th. Would love to hear from any friends & relations. Box 0073H The Times

BUSINESS MANAGER, retired or resting interested in new method of training, willing to attend 1 week courses without charge please write Box no 1003 L The Times.

SOCIETY FOR THE PERPETUATION of romantic, eccentric and inordinately silly letter-writing. Contact 14 Bracewood Gardens, Croydon, Surrey. Send S.A.E.

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TIME OUT AT 20's conjures up champagne from Carol. Bar cafe, rendezvous in Ranelagh Grove Pimlico takes you back gently

BRIAN HIGGINS of Wallasey would like to wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all his friends and relatives.

MAISIE HOWARD wishes all her friends a very Happy Christmas and every good wish for 1984

MARION – you are in my heart and in my mind. Happy Christmas with all my love, Paul

JOYCE MOLE would like to wish her friends and relatives a Happy Christmas and New Year

WM – It would be grate to see you 'MT'

LES BRYANT should like to extend Christmas Greetings to all who know

"JUDE – Grateful thanks to St. Jude AN"

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS DEADLINES

Issue	Deadlines
26 December	NO PAPER
27 December	22 December, 5 pm
28 December	22 December, 5 pm
29 December	22 December, 5 pm
2 January	29 December, 5 pm
3 January	29 December, 5 pm
4 January	29 December, 5 pm

PERSONAL COLUMNS

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

COSTCUTTERS ON FLIGHTS/HOLS To Europe, USA and all destinations. Diplomat Travel, 01 730 2201. Tlx 8813572. ABTA IATA ATOL 1355

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TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s 27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

BRITTON, – Peter Buck Glanville, of 3 Glendower Mansions, Glendower Place, South Kensington, London, SW7 30S, died on 14th October, 1983. Particulars to Lickfolds Wiley & Powles, Solicitors, 7 Upper Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, London, W1Y 2BX, before 27th February, 1984.

SLADE, Dorothy Mary of 4 Lamington Street, London W6 died on May 13 1983. Particulars to Thornton & Co., Solicitors, Thornton House, 4 Shepherds Bush Road, London W6 7PG before 29th day of February 1984.

HADDON, – Lady Helen Anita of 10 Broomfield Court, Sunningdale, Berkshire, died on 1st September, 1983. Particulars to Messrs Slaughter and May, Solicitors, 35 Basinghall Street, London, EC2V 5DB, before 25th February, 1984.

U.K. HOLIDAYS

WINTER SPORTS

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

RUTHERFORD. Happy Xmas & New Year, Mam, Peter, Fiona and John. Love Andrew

SHIRLEY FOSS wishes her friends everywhere a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year

VALERIE. A very happy Christmas and best wishes for New Year Christopher

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

COLLECTOR wishes to buy for cash major South African paintings, drawings, water colours of G. F. Angus, T. Bouter, Baines, De Meillon, Fons, Erich Meyer, Gwelo, Goodman, Hugo Naude, Frans Oerder, Theunis de Jongh, etc. – Write to PO Box 4144, Craighall, Johannesburg 2024 South Africa.

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TEMPTING TIMES

ENTERTAINMENTS

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OPERA & BALLET

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COLISEUM 836 3161 cc 240 5258 Box Office closed Today, Mon, Tue. ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Thurs next: 7.30: MIREILLE. Some seats at all at door each day

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, COVENT GARDEN 240 1066 1911 10am-8pm (Mon-Sat). (Box Office closed today.) Access Visa 'S' 65 amphi-seats avail for all perfs (Mon-Sat) from 10am on the day

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Mon at 7.30pm. Tues at 2.30 & 7.30pm. Thurs at 8.00pm Cinderella. Fri at 7.30pm. Consort Lessons (New Bintley Ballet)/Midsummer (New Alston Ballet)/Requiem.

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE EC1. 01 278 8916 (5 lines). cc Grp sales 01 930 6123. The Wells' Stagecoach: Before and after show Bus Service. Phone B.O. for details. NEW SADLER'S WELLS OPERA Hotline. Tel 01-278 0855 (24 hrs) for brochure. BOX OFFICE CLOSED DEC 23-27 & JAN 1. BOX OFFICE OPEN: DEC 31 (10.30 to 7.30) JAN 2 (12 to 7.30). Dec 29-Jan 14: SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET.

THEATRES

ADELPHI 836 7611 2. Cdt cards 930 9232 836 7358. Grp sales 930 6123. Eves 7.30. Thur & Sat Mats 3.00 (Perfs as normal over Christmas New Year) ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY'S MUSICAL OF THE YEAR POPPY by Peter Nichols & Monty Norman "MAGNIFICENT SPECTACLE" D.Ml. "Lavish Extravaganza" F Tms. "UNMISSABLE TREAT" Punch.

ALBERY S 01-836 3878 cc 379 6565. 930 9232. Grp bkgs 01-836 3962, 930 6123. Eves 8.00. Thurs Mat 3.00. Sat 5.30 & 8.30 "A WONDERFUL QUARTET" D.Mail PAUL EDDINGTON COLIN BLAKELY GEORGINA HALE JANE CARR LOVERS DANCING a new comedy by CHARLES DYER "VERY FUNNY INDEED AN EXCELLENT PLAY" Stage "SUPERBLY PLAYED" Punch "SHEER PLEASURE" Variety

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Feb 13 to 25 VICTORIA WOOD presents her comedy evening LUCKY BAG

Feb 27 to March 3 BENNY GREEN and His Friends Words and Music

March 7 to May 5 LEONARD ROSSITER GEMMA CRAVEN in Joe Orton's LOOT Directed by Jonathan Lynn Evgs 8.00, Mats Thurs 3.00, Sats 5.30 & 8.30. Booking at Theatre 01-836 1171, or 01-930 8577. Credit Card Hotline 01-930 9232 Group Sales 01-930 6123

APOLLO VICTORIA. STARLIGHT EXPRESS Opens March 27 1984. Postal application now booking for March 28-June 23. Eves 8.0, Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 (Prices £14.50, £12.00, £9.50, £6.00) to Starlight Express Box office, Apollo Victoria Theatre, Wilton Road, London S.W.1. Cheques payable to Apollo Victoria Theatre.

APOLLO (Shafts Ave) S 437 2663 CC 930 9232 Mon-Fri 8, Sat 5.30, 8.30. Thur 3. Grp 930 6123. No perf on Sat 24 Dec HANNAH GORDON "A masterful portrayal" D. Mail MARTIN SHAW "An electric performance" Gdn JOHN STRIDE "Mesmerising" Times THE COUNTRY GIRL "This great and powerful play" Punch "Gloriously brought to life" D Mail "Magnificent" N.o.W

BARBICAN. 01-628 8795 638 8891 cc (re-opens 12 noon 26 Dec). ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY BARBICAN THEATRE. PETER PAN by J. M. Barrie returns 7.30pm 26 Dec "Irresistible, simply not to be missed" F Times "82 Few seats still avail Jan 9-12, 16-20, 23-28. Day seats £4 from 12 noon 26 Dec. THE PIT – THE CUSTOM OF THE COUNTRY by Nicholas Wright, returns 26-28 Dec "speed, novelty and a madcap sense of fun." D Tel. From 2 Jan SOFTCOPS new play by Caryl Churchill – only 17 perfs. RSC also at Adelphi

BLOOMSBURY The Witch is SHEILA STEAFEL See Under Opera.

BUSH THEATRE 743 3388 TURNING OVER by Brian Thompson. Tues-Sun 8pm. No Perf Dec 24, 25, 26, 27

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE WC2 01-379 5299 Eves 7.30. Mat Thur 2.30. Sat 5.00 & 8.00. JANE LAPOTAIRE "Sensational" D. Exp PETER BLAKE "... Magnificent" D. Exp. in DEAR ANYONE "Everything a smash-hit musical should have" D. Mail STUBBY KAYE "Brings the house down." Times." STEPHANIE VOSS Group Sales 01-930 6123.

CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE (0243 781312). Barbara Windsor, Trevor Bannister, Aubrey Woods and Christopher Timothy in ALADDIN. Until Jan 14 Daily 2.0 and 7.0 (Dec 24 at 4.0).

CHURCHILL, Bromley (18 mins. Victoria). 460 6677. Charlie Drake, Fenella Fielding in THE WIZARD OF OZ. Daily 2.30 & 7.30 except Today & Dec 31 at 10.30 & 2.30 until Jan 7 then phone for details.

COMEDY, 930 2578. CC 839 1438 Eves 8.00. Fri 6.00 & 8.45. Sat 5.15 & 8.45 Sat 24th Dec no 8 45 Performance. "THE FUNNIEST LADY IN TOWN" D. Mail ELLEN GREENE NOMINATED FOR THE SWET AWARDS BEST ACTRESS OF THE YEAR IN A MUSICAL LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS NOMINATED FOR THE SWET AWARDS MUSICAL OF THE YEAR "EXHILARATINGLY FUNNY AND TUNEFUL" S. Tel. GOOD SEATS AT MOST PERFORMANCES FROM £5.00 Group sales box office Tel. 930 6123

COTTESLOE (NT's small auditorium – low price tkts). Mon & Tues 7.30 The Market Theatre Company, Johannesburg, visiting the NT in MASTER HAROLD AND THE BOYS by Athol Fugard.

CRITERION. S 930 3216, 930 8577 CC 379 6565 930 9232 Grps 836 3962 Mon to Fri 8.0, Thur mat 2.30, Sat 5.30 & 8.30. (Performances as usual over Christmas, New Year). The Theatre of Comedy Production JAMES BOLAM IAN OGILVY STRATFORD JOHNS in RUN FOR YOUR WIFE Written & directed by RAY COONEY "A perfect example of British farce at its best" D Mail Nominated SWET 1983 COMEDY OF THE YEAR

DOMINION, Tottenham Ct. Rd. 01 580 9562 3, 01-323 1876 7. Eves 7.30 (ex 31 Dec) Mat Sat 2.30. Until Jan 28. WAYNE SLEEP WITH A DASH OF CHRISTMAS cc HOT LINES 01-636 8686; 01-930 9232 Group Sales 01-930 6123.

DRURY LANE Theatre Royal CC 01 836 8108. Grp sales 01-930 6123. Tonight at 6 pm only From Mon Eves 8 pm, Fri & Sat 5 pm & 8.30 pm SPECIAL CHRISTMAS TOMORROW "AMAZING ALL-AMERICAN COMPANY" D Tel. BOB FOSSE'S DANCIN' "18 HUMAN DYNAMOS" S.Exp "A WILD, FLAILING, TWITCHING ENERGY THAT MATCHES THE ON-HEAT NATURE OF THE MUSIC" Guardian 200 Balcony seats at £4 each retained for sale day of perf BOOKING TO 25 FEBRUARY

هكذا من الأصل

Entertainments

What's new on the GLC South Bank?

GLC South Bank Concert Halls, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX. Tickets: 01-928 3191. Information: 01-928 3002.
BOX OFFICE opening hours: Monday to Saturday 10 am to 9 pm. Sundays 1.30 to 9 pm.
CREDIT CARDS 01-928 6544.
GROUP DISCOUNTS available for most Royal Festival and Queen Elizabeth Hall performances; details in monthly diary 'Music on the South Bank' or ring 01-928 3002.
STAND-BY SCHEME Tickets at £2.00 for Royal Festival Hall and £1.50 Queen Elizabeth Hall concerts available to schoolchildren, students, unemployed, senior citizens. Telephone 01-633 0932. Available one hour before start of performance.

Royal Festival Hall.

Open all day to everyone. Free lunchtime music.
GUIDED TOURS of the Royal Festival Hall. Daily at 12.45 pm and 5.30 pm £1.00 per person. Reservations 01-928 3191. Credit Cards 01-928 6544.

JOHANN STRAUSS GALA. New Year's Day Concerts. Johann Strauss Orchestra & Dancers in costume. Jack Rothstein (dir vln) Ann James (sop) Popular music by the Strauss family. Tickets for 3.15pm perf: £2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50. Tickets for 7.30pm perf: £2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50, £7.50 R Gubbay

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS
The Royal Festival Hall will remain open until 6 pm on Saturday 24 December and re-opens at 10 am on Tuesday 27 December.

WHERE TO EAT
If you are in search of food and drink you need not look far. Visit the fabulous FESTIVAL BUFFET, the piquant PIZZA AND SALT BEEF BAR, the aromatic COFFEE LOUNGE and the FOYER BAR on the upper foyer while downstairs is the CAFETERIA and COFFEE SHOP, all for your delectation.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL SHOPS
The book, record and gift shops are open on 24 December from 11 am to 5 pm, and re-open on 27 December from 11 am to 10.30 pm. Visit them for your last minute Christmas shopping and use them for your gift tokens after Christmas. Free gift-wrap service.
Credit cards and Mail Order Service. Telephone 01-633 9323.

THE MUSIC BOX
Friday 30 December: Digby Fairweather Quartet
Jazz classical improvisation.
Saturday 31 December: Holiday Allsorts
New Year's Eve Special flavoured with Latin and Jazz.
Sunday 1 January: Roy Vaughan Jazz Trio
Jazz and improvisation classics.
Admission Free!

POP VIDEO EVENT in the MUSIC BOX
from 11 am to 3 pm.
Saturday 31 December, Saturday 7 January, Saturday 14 January.
Admission free.

DRAWN TO BALLET
Until 18 January.
An exhibition of drawings and lithographs by Zsuzsi Roboz, arranged in association with the Exhibition Department of the Royal Festival Hall.
Open to the public from 10 am.
Riverside Terrace: Level 5.

DAVID HOCKNEY POSTERS
Until 8 January.
An exhibition of a private collection of posters for galleries and the theatre by David Hockney.
Open to the public from 10 am. Upper Foyer.

THE SPIRIT OF LONDON
Until 15 January.
GLC Painting Competition 1983.
An exhibition of the prize winners and a selection of other entries to the GLC annual competition.
Open to the public from 10 am. Main Foyer.

I LEONARDO
Until 8 January.
An exhibition of drawings and sketches by Ralph Steadman for his new and eccentric biography of Leonardo da Vinci published by Jonathan Cape.
Open to the public from 10 am.
Royal Festival Hall. Upper Foyer.

PETER FARMER
27 December – 18 January.
Designs for the ballet.
Open to the public from 10 am each day. Lyre Room.

Queen Elizabeth Hall.

OPERA FILMS AT CHRISTMAS
29, 30 December, 1, 2, 3, 4 January.
Evenings at 6 pm.
See panels below.

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Purcell Room

[illegible]

GLC
Working for the Arts in London

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

London Festival Ballet presents
THE NUTCRACKER
Tuesday 27 December at 7.30 pm
28-31 December
Wednesday to Saturday at 3.00 pm and 7.30 pm
2-7 January
Monday to Saturday at 7.30 pm
Saturday Matinee at 3.00 pm

CINDERELLA
9-18 January
Evenings at 7.30 pm Saturday matinee at 3 pm
No performance on Sunday 15 January
Tickets £3, £4, £6, £8, £10
All Tickets sold for 17 Jan (7.30 pm), Fri 13 Jan (7.30 pm), Saturday 14 Jan (7.30 and 3pm)

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents
SUNDAY 1 JANUARY at 3.15 pm & 7.30 pm
NEW YEAR'S DAY
JOHANN STRAUSS GALA
JOHANN STRAUSS ORCHESTRA and DANCERS in Costume
Directed from the Violin by JACK ROTHSTEIN
ANN JAMES soprano SALLY GILPIN choreographer
Popular music of the Strauss Family inc Morning Papers, Tritsch-Tratsch Polka, Pizzicato Polka, Emperor Waltz, Champagne Polka, Blue Danube, Radetzky March, Cachucha Galop, Roses from the South, Die Libelle, Feuerfest, Village Swallows. Songs from Die Fledermaus, The Gypsy Baron, etc
3.15: £2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50
7.30: £3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50, £7.50 (only)
from Hall (01-928 3191) Credit Cards (01-928 6544) & Agents

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents SUNDAY 15 JANUARY at 7.30 pm
TCHAIKOVSKY EVENING
MARCHE SLAVE SWAN LAKE SUITE
PIANO CONCERTO No. 1 NUTCRACKER SUITE
OVERTURE 1812 (with cannon & mortar effects)
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA Conductor: MARCUS DODS
CRISTOPHER GREEN-ARMYTAGE piano BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS
£3.80, £4.80, £5.80, £6.80, £7.80 (only)
from Hall (01-928 3191) Credit Cards (01-928 6544) & Agents

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents TUESDAY 10 JANUARY at 7.45 pm
London recital debut by final prizewinner 1978 Tchaikovsky Competition
ELMAR OLIVEIRA violin
WALTER PONCE piano
HANDEL: Sonata No. 4 in D
PROKOFIEV: Sonata in F minor, Op. 80
SUK: Four Pieces, Op. 17
BRAHMS: Sonata in D minor, Op. 108
£1.50, £2.50, £3, £4. Box Office (01-928 3191) Credit Cards (01-928 6544) & Agents. Sponsored by Peter Biddulph



VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents at the ROYAL ALBERT HALL
SATURDAY NEXT at 7.30 pm
VIENNESE NEW YEAR GALA
NEW SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Introduced and conducted by: VILEM TAUSKY
THE BLUE DANUBE DANCERS
J Strauss: Overture, Die Fledermaus; Waltz: Wine, Women & Song; Cuckoo Polka. E Strauss: Polka: Bahn Frei. J Strauss, Emperor Waltz; Hunting Polka; Anvil Polka; Waltz: Voices of Spring; Radetzky March. Suppe: Overture, Poet and Peasant. Waldteufel: Skaters Waltz. J Strauss: Explosions Polka; Egyptian March. Lehar: Waltz: Gold and Silver. J Strauss: Pizzicato Polka; Champagne Polka. Lanner: New Year Galop. J Strauss: Waltz: The Blue Danube.
£1.50, £3, £4, £5, £6 from Hall (01-589 8212)
Instant Credit Card Booking (no surcharge) 01-930 9232

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents at the ROYAL ALBERT HALL
SUNDAY 22 JANUARY at 7.30 pm
TCHAIKOVSKY
Sleeping Beauty Waltz, Swan Lake Suite
Piano Concerto No 1, Nutcracker Suite
Marche Militaire
Overture, '1812', Cannon & Mortar Effects
NEW SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, BAND OF THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS
Conductor: VILEM TAUSKY Soloist: IRIS LOVERIDGE
£2, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50 from Hall (01-589 8212)
Instant Credit Card Booking (no surcharge) 01-930 9232

Wigmore Hall
Tickets from Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore St, W1
Tel: Box office 01-935 2141 Mailing list £1.30 year Arts Council of Great Britain
Credit cards 01-930 9232

Thursday 29 Dec 7.30 p.m.	THE HILLIARD ENSEMBLE £3.50, £3, £2.50, £1.80 Early Music & Baroque Series. Magenta Music	David James, Paul Elliott, Leigh Nixon, Rogers Covey-Crump, Paul Hillier, Michael George. Songbooks. An entertainment from Henry VIII's Manuscript to the Yale Song Bk & music by Praetorius, Schubert, Grainger
Friday 30 Dec 7.30 p.m.	ENDYMION ENSEMBLE Dir John Whitfield £3.50, £3, £2.50, £1.80	Mozart: Flute Quartet in D K285; Martin Stebbing: Lyrics (1st perf); Schubert: Octet in F Op 166 D803
Saturday 31 Dec 7.30 p.m.	New Year's Eve Concert COULL STRING QUARTET MICHAEL COLLINS Clarinet £4, £3.20, £2.50, £2	Schubert: Quartet in E flat Op 125 No 1 D87; Brahms: Clarinet Quintet in B min Op 115 (to end Brahms 150th Anniversary year) Mozart: Clarinet Quintet in A K581
Sunday 1 Jan 7.30 p.m.	TAVERNER CONSORT & PLAYERS Andrew Parrott dir. Emma Kirkby sop. David Stuart tr. John Holloway vln	Sonatas by Corelli & Purcell; Bach: Christmas Oratorio 6th Cantata; Purcell 2 songs from the Faery Queen; Bach: Missa BWV 236 £4.50, £3.50, £2.50, £2. Early Music & Baroque Series; Taverner Concerts

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BARBICAN HALL
Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2Y 8DS
01-638 8891/01-628 8795
Telephone Bookings: 10am-8pm 7 days a week

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents at the BARBICAN
MONDAY & TUESDAY NEXT 26 & 27 DECEMBER at 3 pm
KASATKA COSSACKS
See Barbican Panel for details

MONDAY NEXT 26 DECEMBER at 8 pm
GILBERT & SULLIVAN GALA
See Barbican Panel for details

TUESDAY NEXT 27 DECEMBER at 8 pm
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
£7.50, £6. (ALL OTHERS SOLD)

WEDNESDAY NEXT 28 DECEMBER at 3 pm
NAPOLEON
See Barbican Panel for details

THURSDAY NEXT 29 DECEMBER at 3 pm
THAT'S CRICKET
See Barbican Panel for details

THURSDAY NEXT 29 DECEMBER at 8 pm
JOSHUA RIFKIN plays SCOTT JOPLIN
See Barbican Panel for details

FRIDAY NEXT 30 DECEMBER at 3 pm
THE SNOWMAN & PETER AND THE WOLF
See Barbican Panel for details

FRIDAY NEXT 30 DECEMBER at 8 pm
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
ALL SEATS SOLD (Returns Only)

MONDAY 2 JANUARY at 7.30 pm
Music from the Screen
Programme includes music from Star Wars, Big Country, Battle in the Air from Battle of Britain, The Entertainer, 2001, Murder on the Orient Express, The Dambusters March, The Magnificent Seven, 633 Squadron, etc.
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Conductor: HARRY RABINOVITZ
£2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50, £7.50

WEDNESDAY 4 JANUARY at 8 pm
Music from Spain
Falla ... RITUAL FIRE DANCE
Bizet ... CARMEN SUITE
Falla ... NIGHTS IN THE GARDENS OF SPAIN
Rodrigo ... CONCERTO DE ARANJUEZ
Chabrier ... ESPANA
Ravel ... BOLERO
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Conductor: HOWARD WILLIAMS
DAVID RUSSELL guitar MALCOLM BINNS piano
£2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50, £7.50

FRIDAY 6 JANUARY at 8 pm
Presented in association with Harrison/Parrott Ltd
BEETHOVEN
PIANO CONCERTO NO 4 SYMPHONY NO 9 (CHORAL)
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Conductor: NICHOLAS CLEOBURY
FOU TS'ONG piano
Phillis Cannan Sally Burgess Martyn Hill
Geoffrey Moses London Choral Society
£2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50, £7.50

SUNDAY 8 JANUARY at 7.30 pm
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA Conductor: RICHARD HICKOX
ELMAR OLIVEIRA violin
British debut by winner of 1978 Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow
MENDELSSOHN: Ov ... 'The Hebrides' (Fingal's Cave)
BRAHMS ... Violin Concerto in D, Op. 77
BEETHOVEN ... Symphony No 3 in E flat, Op. 55 'Eroica'
£2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50, £7.50
Box Office 01-628 8795 Credit Cards 01-638 8891



VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents at the BARBICAN
SUNDAY 15 JANUARY AT 7.30 p.m.
ROSSINI: Ov., William Tell
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS: Greensleeves
RACHMANINOV: Piano Concerto No. 2
DVORAK: Symphony No. 9 (New World)
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Conductor: JONATHAN DEL MAR Soloist: DANIEL BLUMENTHAL
£2, £3, £4, £5, £6, £7 from Box Office (01-628 8795)
Credit Cards (01-638 8891)

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA in association with VICTOR HOCHHAUSER present at the BARBICAN
FRIDAY 20 JANUARY at 7.45 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Introduced and conducted by
ANTONY HOPKINS
Soloist: Antony Peebles
ROSSINI: Overture, 'The Silken Ladder'
GREIG: Piano Concerto in A minor
RAVEL: Bolero
ELGAR: Pomp & Circumstance March No. 1 in D
BORODIN: Polovtsian Dances from 'Prince Igor'
£2, £3, £4, £5, £6, £7 from Box Office (01-628 8795)
Credit Cards (01-638 8891)



RAYMOND GUBBAY presents
THE BRITISH DEBUT
by the outstanding violinist
ELMAR OLIVEIRA
Winner of the 1978 Tchaikovsky Competition, Moscow
BARBICAN HALL 7.30pm
SUNDAY 8 JANUARY
playing
BRAHMS VIOLIN CONCERTO
with the PHILHARMONIA
Conductor RICHARD HICKOX
Box Office: 01-628 8795 Credit Cards: 01-638 8891

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL 7.45pm
TUESDAY 10 JANUARY
A recital with
WALTER PONCE piano
playing works by
HANDEL PROKOFIEV SUK BRAHMS
Box Office: 01-928 3191 Credit Cards 01-928 6544
SPONSORED BY PETER BIDDULPH

MUSICAL EVENINGS
at the Ritz
by the students of the
ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC
NEW YEAR'S NIGHT
CHRISTOPHER BAIN flute
LOUISE MARTIN harp
Special 4 course Dinner Menu £26 (inc VAT & Service)
The Ritz, Piccadilly, London W1V 9DG. 01-493 8181
JAN 8 Mahlfeld Trio JAN 15 Flute & Pianoforte

THEATRES

DUCHESS THEATRE S CC.
The Beagle Has Landed
A nomination for
MUSICAL OF THE YEAR
ACTOR OF THE YEAR IN A MUSICAL
Teddy Kempner
1983 SWET Awards
"An extraordinary achievement"
Sunday Telegraph
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OVER 100 IRRESISTIBEAGLE PERFORMANCES
Box office 01-836 8243
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Keith Prowse (no bkng fee) 01-636 8686
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Evgs 8.00pm.
Fri & Sat 6.00pm & 8.30pm
NOW BOOKING TILL MARCH 3
Extra Xmas perfs 26 Dec. 4 & 8pm
Special New Year's Eve perfs 2.30 & 6.00
27 Dec 8.00pm, 2 Jan, 6 & 8.30pm
"BEST MUSICAL" The Observer

DUKE OF YORK'S 01-836 5122 cc 01-836 0641. Group sales 01-930 6123. Evgs 7.30 Mats Weds & Sats at 3.0
DONALD SINDEN BERYL REID
MICHAEL DENISON DULCIE GRAY
NICOLA PAGETT
CLIVE FRANCIS HAROLD INNOCENT
and BILL FRASER
in JOHN BARTON'S production of
THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL
For a limited season.
No perfs Dec 26.

FORTUNE 836 2238. CC hotline 930 9232. Grps 930 6123. Evgs 8.00. Mats (Children ½ price) Thur 3.00, Sat 4.30. Sat Dec 24 No 8.00 Perf. No Perf Jan 2
DENIS LAWSON
Nominated for SWET Award
ACTOR OF THE YEAR IN A MUSICAL
"Really funny" Obs
MR CINDERS
Music by Vivian Ellis
"Packed with enchanting songs" Tms

[illegible]

VICTORIA PALACE. 834 1317/828 4735. Evgs twice nightly at 6.00 & 8.30. SIMON CADELL, PAUL SHANE, RUTH MADOC, JEFFREY HOLLAND, FELIX BOWNESS, BARRY HOWARD, BEN WARRISS and SU POLLARD in The Fun Packed Holiday Musical For All The Family
HI-DE-HI
With TV's star cast. Box office open. prices £3, £7.50
FOR A LIMITED CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SEASON

WESTMINSTER Palace St. SW1. 01-834 0283. CC 01-836 0641.
The Famous Children's Musical
TOAD OF TOAD HALL
by A. A. MILNE
1.45 & 4.45 Daily
Seats £6.50, £5.50, £4.50.

WYNDHAM'S S 836 3028 cc 379 6565/930 9232. Grps 836 3962. NO PERFS TODAY & MON. Tues Thurs at 8.15. Fri & Sat next at 5.00 & 8.30
JOHN MILLS
"What a night. What a Knight" D. Ml.
ANTHONY BATE CONNIE BOOTH and GLYN HOUSTON in
LITTLE LIES
"THE BEST FUN TO BE HAD" Daily Tel. "MADHOUSE" Times.

YOUNG VIC 928 6363 Today 3pm. Wed, Thur, Fri 3pm & 7.0pm. SWAN ESTHER. The Matchless Musical for Christmas and The New Year. Seats £2.50. Parties £2. HARVEY & THE WALLBANGERS. Dec 28, 29, 30 at 9.30pm.

CINEMAS

ACADEMY 1. 437 2981. Isabelle Huppert in AT FIRST SIGHT (15) at 2.00 (not Sun), 4.10, 6.25, 8.45. CLOSED DEC 24, 25, 26

ACADEMY 2. 437 5129. Claude Goretta's prize winning THE DEATH OF MARIO RICCI (PG). Progs 2.30 (not Sun), 4.30, 6.35, 8.45. CLOSED DEC 24, 25, 26.

ACADEMY 3. 437 8819. Simone Signoret in L'ETOILE DU NORD (PG) at 4.00, 6.15, 8.35. CLOSED DEC 24, 25, 26.

CAMDEN PLAZA 485 2443, opp Camden Town Tube. Wajda's Prizewinning film DANTON (PG). Extended run. Film at 3.30, 6.05, 8.40pm. Closed Dec 24 & 25.

CHELSEA CINEMA 351 3742. 206 Kings Road, SW3 (Sloane Sq tube). Truffaut's FINALLY, SUNDAY! (PG) Film at 1.45, 4.00, 6.20, 8.45. Advance booking for 8.45 Perf. Access Visa. Closed Dec 24 & 25.

CURZON, Curzon St, W1. 499 3737. No 8.45 perf on Dec 24th. We are closed on Dec 25th & 26th. Jeremy Irons, Ben Kingsley, Patricia Hodge "Are all superb" F. Times in Harold Pinter's BETRAYAL (15) "A film not to be missed" Barry Norman Film '83. Progs at 2.00 (NOT SUN), 4.10, 6.20, 8.40.

GATE BLOOMSBURY, 1 & 2. 837 8402/1177. Russell Sq Tube. Open Xmas Eve, closed Xmas Day & Boxing Day. 1: ZELIG (PG) 4.15, 5.45, 7.15, 9.00. N.C.P. parking 30p anytime Sat & Sun, Mon-Fri after 6pm. 2: THE LEOPARD (PG) 4.20, 7.45. Lic'd Bar Access Visa

GATE MAYFAIR 493 2031 MAYFAIR HOTEL. Green Pk Tb. Open Xmas Eve. Closed Xmas Day & Boxing Day. ZELIG (PG) 5.00, 6.30, 8.00, 9.30.

GATE NOTTING HILL. 221 0220 727 5750. Open Xmas Eve & Boxing Day. Closed Xmas Day. Judy Garland, James Mason in A STAR IS BORN (U) 1.30, 4.45, 8.00.

LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE (930 5252). CUJO (18). Sep progs today 1.45, 4.05 only. NO ADVANCE BOOKING. THEATRE CLOSED DECEMBER 25 and 26. STARTS TUESDAY (DEC 27) THE STAR WARS 3-IN-ONE SPECTACULAR "STAR WARS" (U) "THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK" (U) "RETURN OF THE JEDI" (U). Complete prog daily 1.15pm. Doors open 12.30pm.

LUMIERE 836 0691 St Martin's Lane WC2 (Leicester Sq Tube). DAVID BOWIE in ZIGGY STARDUST (PG). Film at 1.20, 3.10, 5.05, 7.05, 9.10. Advance booking for 9.10. Perf. Access Visa. Closed Dec 24 & 25

MINEMA 45 KNIGHTSBRIDGE Tel: 235 4225/6. "BIDDY" (U). Progs. daily: 3.0, 5.0, 7.0, 9.0. "The perfect Christmas entertainment" (Standard). CLOSED DEC. 24-25-26.

ODEON HAYMARKET (930 2738) LA TRAVIATA (U). Sep. progs. 1.45 only. ALL SEATS BOOKABLE IN ADVANCE. TELEPHONE BOOKINGS WITH ACCESS AND VISA WELCOME. THEATRE CLOSED DECEMBER 25 AND 26.

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (930 6111). WALT DISNEY'S THE JUNGLE BOOK (U), MICKEY'S CHRISTMAS CAROL (U). Sep. progs. Doors open today 2.00. ADVANCE BOOKING BY POST OR AT BOX OFFICE. ACCESS AND VISA ACCEPTED FOR ADVANCE BOOKING ONLY. THEATRE CLOSED DECEMBER 25 & 26.

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (723 2011) OCTOPUSSY (PG). TODAY 1.45 ONLY. REDUCED PRICES FOR CHILDREN. NO ADVANCE BOOKING. THEATRE CLOSED DECEMBER 26 & 26

SCREEN ON THE HILL 435 3366. James Stewart, Grace Kelly in Hitchcock's REAR WINDOW (PG). 2.20, 4.40, 7.00, 9.15. Lic Bar. Seats bookable. Club show inst memb.

WARNER WEST END LEIC. SQ. (439 0791). Richard Attenborough's Film GANDHI (PG). Door 2.00, 6.45pm. No Advance Booking.

EXHIBITIONS

YOUNG BLOOD. Open today 10-7. Adm £3 (£2 after 4.00 Tues-Fri). Art Gallery, Barbican Centre, EC2. 638 4141.

"PRINCE ALBERT - his life and work." Royal College of Art. Daily 10-6.30. Wednesday 10-8.

ART GALLERIES

ANTHONY D'OFFAY 9 & 23 Dering St, W1. December – exhibition: Paintings, drawings and sculpture 1890-1983. Bevan, Bomberg, Gilbert and George, Kiefer, Long, etc.

BEN URI – 21 Dean St. W1. 437 2852. Roman Vishniac – photographic Exhibition. Tues 27th 2-6; Wed 11 6.30; Thurs 11-7.30 until Jan 5th.

[illegible]

ODETTE GILBERT GALLERY, 5 Cork St, W1. 01-437 3175. The Newest Gallery in London, specializing in Living British Artists is now open Mon-Fri 10-5.30, Sat 10-1.

SERPENTINE GALLERY, Kensington Gardens, W2. (Arts Council). GILLIAN AYRES: recent paintings. Daily 10-4, until 8 Jan. Free. Closed 23, 24, 25, 26 Dec, 1 Jan.

TATE GALLERY, Millbank, SW1. JOHN PIPER paintings, stained glass, ceramics, fabrics, theatre designs. Until 22 Jan. Adm £1.50. Sculpture and drawings by REG BUTLER 1913-81. Until 15 Jan. RICHARD HAMILTON: Graphic Work. Until 12 Feb. Adm free. Wkdys 10-5.30; Suns 2-5.30; Recorded info: 01-821 7128. Closed 23-26 Dec & 1 Jan.

VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM, S. Kensington. BRITISH 20TH CENTURY ART & DESIGN. New display. RICHARD DOYLE: A Christmas Exhibition. Until 26 Feb. DAVID COX: Oil Paintings & Watercolours. Until 8 Jan. OLIVER MESSEL. Until 15 Jan. MARKETA LUSKACOVA: Photographs. Until 26 Feb. ISLAMIC BOOKBINDINGS. Until 4 March. Adm free. Wkdys 10-5.30; Suns 2.30-5.50. Closed Fridays. Recorded info: 01-581 4894. Closed 23-26 Dec and 1 Jan.





Heseltine pays flying visit to troops in Beirut

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, paid a pre-Christmas visit to the British peace-keeping force here yesterday and praised the "skilful commitment" by the very limited number of British soldiers" in protecting Britain's interests.

He said the 97-man British contingent of the multi-national force was "playing quite a remarkable role" in guarding the building where the Lebanese Ceasefire Committee has been meeting to try to hold together the truce agreement.

Asked about the likelihood that the British contingent would be withdrawn he replied: "I do not want to talk about pulling out. What we are trying to do is encourage the dialogues that are going on.

Mr Heseltine added: "There are risks even to Britain if this situation is to escalate. One must realize that the super-powers are very close to each other in this part of the world and one must realize there are implications.

"It is very possible that if anything very seriously goes wrong here, it could affect our interests."

Mr Heseltine chatted and shook hands with the soldiers. He was accompanied by Air Vice-Marshal Donald Hall. They brought Christmas trees, beer, cakes, and cards for the troops.

Although Mr Heseltine met Mr Issam Koury, his Lebanese counterpart, during his one-day visit, he said it was intended mainly to bring greetings to the British soldiers.

"I thought it would be particularly appropriate to come here... and indicate the great gratitude that the Government has for what they are doing," he said.

● French visit: M Charles Hernu, the French Defence Minister, arrived here yesterday and declared that he would be spending Christmas with the French contingent of the multi-national force, Beirut radio said

Clash over Arafat photograph, page 6

Pentagon critical of senior officers

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

The US Joint Chiefs of Staff are considering recommending disciplinary action against senior officers responsible for the security of the Marine compound in Beirut destroyed by a car bomb on October 23, when 241 servicemen died.

Their decision will be based on the findings of a special commission headed by retired Admiral Robert Long, set up by Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Secretary of State, to look into the incident.

Although the report has not yet been made public, Mr Weinberger has said that it "is critical and blames a number of people for not exercising what in hindsight would have been better judgment."

According to the *New York Times*, the Pentagon report contains similar criticisms to those made in a separate Congressional study into the bombing made public earlier this week.

The study, prepared by a House armed services subcommittee, concluded that "very serious errors in judgment" by officers on the ground and up through the chain of command had left the Marines vulnerable to attack.

The Pentagon report, which is expected to be made public shortly (although with sections deleted) is said to blame military officers in Washington. European command (which has overall responsibility for US troops in Lebanon) and in Beirut.

Two of the officers named in the report are General Paul Kelly, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Colonel Timothy Geraghty, who was the Marine commander in Beirut at the time of the attack.

General Kelley was criticized in the Congressional report for providing inaccurate information to the House subcommittee. However, Mr Weinberger defended General Kelly during a television interview this week, saying he had not deliberately misled Congress but had merely reported information that was available to him at the time.

Moral stance may leave Salvation Army helpless

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The Salvation Army, which helps thousands of distressed homeless and hungry people in New York, is in danger of losing the £3.5m it gets from the city authority because of its views on homosexuality. The charity said its conservative interpretation makes it difficult for it to comply with an order issued by Mayor Edward Koch.

Contractors who deal with the city must agree not to discriminate against workers or job applicants on the grounds of "race, creed, colour, origin, sex, age, handicap, marital status, sexual orientation, or affectional preference".

The Salvation Army does not include the last two categories in its employment policy statement, as the order demands. The city says it cannot do business with an organization which does not comply and claims the Salvation Army is a lone voice among thousands.

The charity runs many services in New York. A spokesman said the money it gets from the city is a substantial part of its budget and the loss would severely affect it.

The Salvation Army says it does not discriminate against homosexuals who need help. Its view on homosexuality is that "we will object to the conduct – and embrace in Christian love the person guilty of this conduct".

The city and the charity are trying to resolve the difficulty.



Identical car made to trace bombers

Continued from page 1

another operation had been carried out on Police Constable John Gordon, who lost a leg in the blast, was intended to prevent the loss of his other leg.

Inspector Stephen Dodd's condition deteriorated during the day. After difficulties with his kidney function, he was put on a dialysis machine.

More than £70,000 has been raised for the bomb's victims and their relatives. Chelsea police station has received more than £14,000 and the *Sun* more than £12,000.

The Knightsbridge Fund, launched by Harrods, began with £50,000. Mr Alec Craddock, its managing director, said that offers of money had come from as far away as Iceland.

Mrs Sara Jones, widow of Colonel "H" Jones, who was killed in the Falklands, has also agreed to be a trustee of the fund.

● The Harrods bombers had earned "universal detestation", a Roman Catholic priest said yesterday at the funeral of Mr Philip Geddes, aged 24, a *Daily Express* journalist killed in the blast (the Press Association reports).

Almost 500 mourners packed St Mary's Church in Mr Geddes' home town of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, for a requiem mass addressed by Father Robert Bickerstaffe.

Relatives of Sergeant Noel Lane had asked for no publicity to be given to his cremation yesterday at Croydon Crematorium. Fifty Metropolitan Police officers and the Commissioner, Sir Kenneth Newman, attended the ceremony.

The funeral of Woman Police Constable Jane Arbuthnot aged 22, another of the five victims of the bombing, will be held at St Luke's Church, Chelsea, south-west London on Friday.

Hoaxer jailed, page

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Carols and services

Carols, Church of Christ the King, 7.30.

Midnight Holy Communion, Guards Chapel, Birdcage Walk, 11.30.

Midnight Mass, St Clement Danes, Strand, 11.30.

Midnight Eucharist, St Margaret's Chelsea, 11.45.

Carols, 6.30, carols on steps with Salvation Army band, 9, midnight Mass, 11.30, St Martin's-in-the-Fields.

Midnight Mass, St Marylebone Parish Church, 11.30.

Carols, 6, midnight Mass, 11.30, St Pancras Church.

Carols with blessing of the crib, 4, midnight Mass, 11.30, St Paul's Cathedral.

Christmas music and solemn midnight Mass, The Oratory, Brompton Road, 11.30.

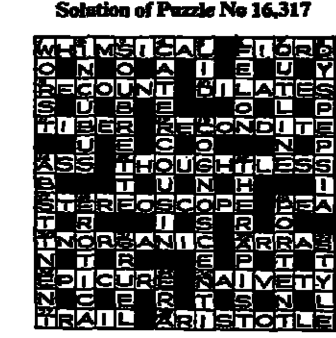
Festival of Nine Lessons and carols, Bath Abbey, 7.

Festival of Nine Lessons and carols, St Olave's, Marygate, York, 5.30.

Children's Carols, 5, carols, 7.30, Coventry Cathedral.

Evensong with nine lessons and carols, St George's Chapel, Windsor, 5.15.

Solution of Puzzle No 16,312 **Solution of Puzzle No 16,317**



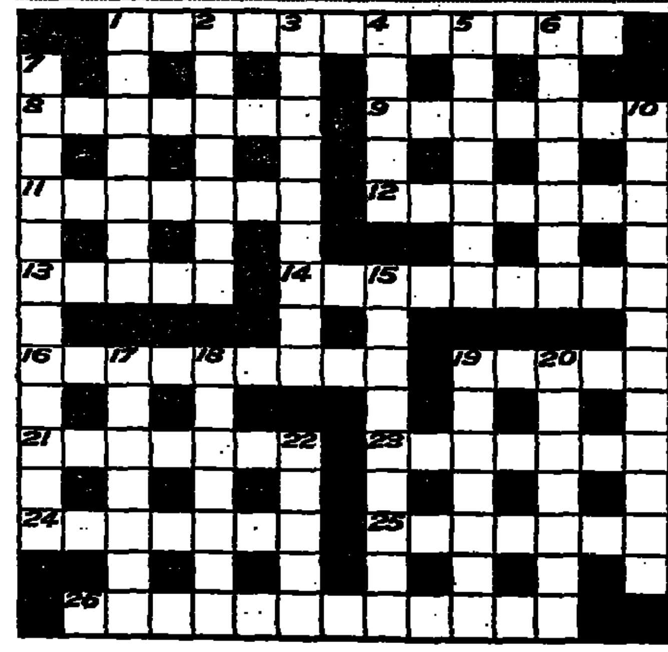
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,318

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World *(comprehensive edition) will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC99 9YT. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.*

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Mr. N. F. Bunker, Flat 3, 3 Ashdown Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN40 1SE; Mr. J. C. Harding, 14 Slade Road, Portishead, Bristol, BS20 9BS; Mr. W. M. Woodings, 29 Mossford Avenue, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 3RT.

Name ......

Address ......



ACROSS

1 Mathematical technique extended parliamentary vote (4-8).
8 Doesn't eat right in the sticks (7).
9 Limit navigational aid (7).
11 Red-nosed heart-throb (7).
12 More prepared to pass on and back outside (7).
13 Prisoner very brave to show this (5).
14 Sporting event broadcast to the nation (5,4).
16 It's rammed roughly half-way between the banks (9).
19 Fish I caught and ground (5).
21 Roundhead measure upset (7).
23 This train has no brakes, we hear (3-4).
24 A lot of rope (7).
25 Thief makes little noise, right? (7).
26 Endurance and piety wrong, as it falls out (7,5).

DOWN

1 Lover who used to swim and look around (7).
2 Chamberlain and kingmaker (7).
3 Let off free (9).
4 Rev motor after six (5).
5 Abstract problem presented to girl (7).
6 Wilde's not second in a wind instrument ... (7).
7 ... with most left out, immense (12).
10 Very different way to undermine skill (7,5).
15 Improperly, romp led on a sucker (5,4).
17 Money left in around the Post Office is tied up (7).
18 Threesome – go round in it (7).
19 Cutter's crew getting noticed (4-3).
20 One who pays for damage to trestle (7).
22 Scots town in the Spanish spirit (5).

***The Times* Prize Jumbo Crossword with an additional set of concise clues is on page 25 of today's Saturday section.**

Old Father Time

Beacons, firework displays, torchlight processions and other festivities are being arranged at 200 venues throughout the country to welcome in the new year.

To find out what is happening in your area at midnight on December 31 ring Bruno Peek, originator and national organizer of the English Tourist Board's "Old Father Time" project on 061-732 2244. The line will be manned daily from Tuesday next, December 27.

Sale, sale, sale

London and provincial sales starting dates include:

December 27: Liberty; Dickens and Jones, Regent Street; Debenhams, all branches; Austin Reed, Regent Street; Rayne, New Bond Street; Aquascutum, Regent Street; Jaeger, Regent Street and branches; Barkers, Kensington; D. H. Evans, Oxford Street; Scotch House, 84 and 191 Regent Street; Burberrys, 18-22 Haymarket; 165 Regent Street and 64 Buchanan Street, Glasgow, Dingles, Plymouth. British Home Stores in Scotland. Moss Bros.

December 28: Selfridges; Fenwick, New Bond Street; Dickens and Jones, Richmond and Milton Keynes; Army and Navy, Victoria, Laura Ashley, all branches; Austin Reed, all branches; Habitat; Allders of Croydon.

December 29: Sanderson, Berners Street; John Lewis, Oxford Street; Heal's.

December 30: Peter Jones; C & A Stores; John Lewis, Bristol, Edinburgh, Milton Keynes, Peterborough.

January 5: Harvey Nichols; Bentalls, all branches; Fortnum and Mason, Piccadilly; Lilleywhites, Piccadilly Circus; Long Tall Sally.

January 6: Harrods.

January 7: Reject Shop; David Mellor.

The papers

One of the joys, or sorrows, of Christmas is to look around and see how we as a nation are doing. And the answer must be: pretty well, the Daily Express says. "The jingle of the cash registers tells its own story. A country that can clear the store shelves of home computers to the tune of half-a-million sets at up to £200 a time, can't be doing badly."

The Sun asks readers to spare a thought for the five families who were bereaved by the Harrods bomb. "But the real message of Christmas is that hope never dies."

Reflecting on the many people who are not regular churchgoers who go to church on Christmas Day, the Daily Mail says: "The last thing they want is a sermon with a political message or the well-meaning views of a clergyman who might just as well be a social worker."

Cooking a turkey

For those stranded without a recipe for roast turkey:

The slow roasting method is generally better if time permits. For very large birds it is not always practicable. Set the turkey on a rack in a shallow roasting tin and baste it every 15 to 20 minutes throughout cooking time. It is ready when the juices run clear. Test with a skewer in the thickest part of the leg close to the body.

TIMETABLE

Weight (including stuffing)	Slow method	Fast method
	160°C 325°F Gas Mk 3	230°C 450°F Gas Mk 8
6-8 lb	3-3½ hrs	2¼-2½ hrs
8-11 lb	3½-3¾ hrs	2½-2¾ hrs
11-15 lb	3¾-4¼ hrs	2¾-3 hrs
15-20 lb	4¼-4¾ hrs	3-3½ hrs
20-22 lb	4¾-5¼ hrs	3½-3¾ hrs
22-26 lb	5¼-6 hrs	3¾-4¼ hrs

Here's to you!

In case of cold, or colds, over the holiday, here is a punch with a difference – limy rather than spicy: Gently warm a pound of syrup in a pan, add a bottle of dark rum, the juice and chopped rinds of 12 limes, and half a pint of orange juice. Keep at low simmer for 10 minutes. Serve hot or cold.

Shoplifters' counsel

Christmas is one of the peak periods for shoplifting; this year, an organization formed to help those accused of such offences is just getting into its stride. It just getting into its stride. It calls itself Crisis Counselling for alleged Shoplifters and offers moral support and practical advise to those who may feel that they have been wrongly accused. Cases involving children are especially welcome. CCAS is c/o NCPC, London, NW4 (write sending a 30p stamped addressed envelope.

British Library

The British Library will reopen on Tuesday, December 27.

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.66	1.56
Austria Sch	29.05	27.40
Belgium Fr	84.50	80.25
Canada $	1.85	1.77
Denmark Kr	14.90	14.15
Finland Mkk	8.75	8.35
France Fr	12.45	11.90
Germany DM	4.10	3.90
Greece Dr	160.00	150.00
Hongkong $	11.40	10.80
Italy Lira	2485.00	2365.00
Japan Yen	349.00	331.00
Netherlands Gld	4.61	4.38
Norway Kr	11.60	11.00
Portugal Esc	198.00	187.00
South Africa Rd	1.82	1.69
Spain Pta	232.50	222.00
Sweden Kr	12.09	11.44
Switzerland Fr	3.27	3.10
USA $	1.48	1.42
Yugoslavia Dnr	218.00	206.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd.

London: The FT Index closed 1.2 down at 775.0.

Bank holidays

The banks reopen after the Christmas break on Wednesday, December 28, but will be shut again on January 2 and in Scotland on January 3 also.

In the garden

Water houseplants regularly but carefully. Do not overwater or allow pots to stand in a saucer of water for more than two or three hours. Cyclamen do not adapt quickly to a changed environment. They will need plenty of water; stand the pot in a saucer and half fill it. Tip out what the plant has not taken up after three hours. Do not allow water to fall on the young buds; they may rot. Keep cyclamen in a cool room – the hall may be a good place – where the temperature does not rise much above 60°F.

Check houseplants and greenhouse plants for aphids, greenfly and similar pests; spray if necessary

If we can spray our apples, plums or cherry trees, including the ornamental forms of prunes, with a tar oil winter wash in the next two or three weeks, next year's aphid population would be reduced enormously.. Tar oil also cleans the trees and deciduous shrubs of green algae. RH

Roads

Although most big roadworks have been suspended over Christmas there could still be delays at the following:

London and South-east: A40: Western Avenue between Horsenden Lane and Medway Parade, new layout; long delays. M20: from A20 (junction 5/Maidstone West) to ¼ mile E of A249 (junction 7 Sheerness/Sittingbourne), major reconstruction; contraflow traffic on both carriageways: avoid if possible. M25: Southbound between junctions 28 and 30 (A12 to A13) Lane closures; extra care, reduce speed.

Wales and West: A55: Construction of Bangor bypass, Gwynedd; traffic restrictions. M4: Lane closures for bridge repairs between junction 21 and 22 across Severn Bridge, affecting both carriageways. M4: Lane closures at junction 32 (Cardiff) and 34 (Llantrisant); delays.

North: M1: Repairs between junctions 33 and 34, South Yorks; contraflow; delays expected. A575: Sewer scheme causing diversions at Egerton Street, Farnworth, Greater Manchester.

Midlands: A38: Repairs to Burton upon Trent bypass; two-way traffic on one carriageway and diversion at Clay Mills. A46: Lane closures at Warwick bypass. A1: Roadworks N of Norman's Cross, Cambridgeshire; contraflow southbound.

Scotland: A92: Road realignment one mile N of Glenrothes; northbound carriageway closed; care required. A75: Repairs at Buccleuch Street Bridge, Dumfries; one lane only in each direction. A7: Surface damage and road widening south of Gorebridge; single-lane traffic controlled by lights.

Information supplied by AA

Anniversaries

TODAY

Births: King John, Oxford (?), 1167 (?); George Crabbie, poet, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, 1754; James Prescott Joule, physicist, Salford, Lancashire, 1818; Matthew Arnold, Laleham, Middlesex, 1822; Juan Ramón Jiménez, poet, 1956, Moguer, Spain, 1881. Deaths: John Dunstable, composer, London, 1453; William Makepeace Thackeray, London, 1863.

TOMORROW

Births: Sir Issac Newton, Woolsthorpe, Lincolnshire, 1642; William Collins, Chichester, 1721; Aleksandr Scriabin, composer, Moscow, 1871; Mohammed Ali Jinnah, creator of Pakistan, Karachi, 1876; Maurice Utrillo, painter, Paris, 1883. Karel Capek, writer, died in Prague, 1938.

Weather

A trough of low pressure will move N across most districts.

6am to midnight

London, SE, Central S, SW England, East Anglia, Midlands (E), Channel Islands: Rather cloudy but mostly dry at first, rain later; wind SW, fresh or strong; max temp 11 to 13C (52 to 55F).

E, Central N, NE England, Midlands (W): Rain at first, heavy in places, becoming mainly dry with bright intervals; wind mainly SW, fresh; max temp 10 to 11C (50 to 52F).

Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland: Rain at first, heavy in places, becoming mainly dry but cloudy. Wind mainly SW, fresh or strong; max temp 9 to 10C (48 to 50F).

Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow Argyll: Cloudy with rain at times, snow in places at first, chiefly on hills, mainly dry later, wind E, strong, locally gale, becoming SW, fresh or strong, max temp 6 to 8C (43 to 46F).

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland: Sleet or snow spreading from S, heavy at times with drifting, but turning to rain at low level; wind E, strong, locally gale, becoming SW later; max temp 4 to 6C (39 to 43F).

Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals and scattered snow showers at first, more persistent sleet or snow later with some drifting; wind E, moderate, increasing strong, locally gale; max temp 1 to 3C (34 to 37F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Boxing Day: Rather cloudy with rain in places at first, becoming dry with some sunshine; near normal temperature.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: Wind SE, veering SW, sea rough or very rough. **Strait of Dover, English Channel (E), St George's Channel:** Wind SW, strong to gale; sea rough or very rough. **Irish Sea:** Wind SE, veering SW, strong to gale; sea rough or very rough.

TODAY

Sun rises: 8.05 am Sun sets: 3.55 pm
Moon rises: 9.24 pm Moon sets: 11.34 am
Last Quarter: December 26

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 8.05 am Sun sets: 3.56 pm
Moon rises: 10.48 pm Moon sets: 11.56 am
Last Quarter: Tomorrow

Lighting-up time

TODAY
London 4.25 pm to 7.35 am
Bristol 4.35 pm to 7.45 am
Edinburgh 4.11 pm to 8.14 am
Manchester 4.23 pm to 7.55 am
Penzance 4.53 pm to 7.50 am

TOMORROW
London 4.26 pm to 7.36 am
Bristol 4.36 pm to 7.45 am
Edinburgh 4.12 pm to 8.14 am
Manchester 4.23 pm to 7.55 am
Penzance 4.54 pm to 7.51 am

Around Britain

	Sun hr	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	1.6	.13	7	45	sunny pm
Bridlington	1.1	.13	8	46	cloudy
Cromer	-	.09	9	48	rain
Lowestoft	-	.04	10	50	rain pm
Clacton	0.6	-	10	50	bright
Brighton	-	-	10	50	driz pm
Worthing	-	-	11	52	bright
Littlehmptn					
Bognor R	0.1	.01	11	52	cloudy
Southsea	0.4	-	12	54	cloudy
Exmouth	0.4	.01	12	54	cloudy
Torquay	0.3	.02	13	55	rain pm
Falmouth	-	.17	12	54	drizzle
Penzance	-	.16	12	54	drizzle
Jersey	-	.13	11	52	rain pm
Tenby	3.8	.08	12	54	bright
Southport	-	.09	9	48	dull
Morecambe	-	.83	8	46	dull
Douglas	0.4	.33	8	46	cloudy pm
London (Ctrl)	1.0	-	13	55	cloudy
B'ham (Airpt)	2.0	.08	12	54	rain am
Bristol (Ctrl)	-	-	12	54	shwrs am
Cardiff (Ctrl)	1.2	.05	12	54	cloudy
Anglesey	1.8	.05	10	50	bright am
B'pool (Airpt)	0.1	.21	9	48	bright
Manchester	0.5	.17	9	48	shwrs am
Nottingham	-	.03	9	48	rain am
N'cst-n-Tyne	-	.27	7	45	rain
Carlisle	-	.35	6	43	shwrs pm
Eskdalemuir	-	.37	4	39	cloudy
Prestwick	0.3	.13	7	45	rain am
Glasgow	-	.02	6	43	rain am

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded

b–blue sky; bc–blue sky and cloud; c–cloudy; o–overcast; f–fog; d–drizzle; h–hail; m–mist; r–rain; s–snow; th–thunderstorm; p–showers. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled. temperatures fahrenheit.

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

		C	F			C
Belfast	f	06	43	Guernsey	c	11
Birmingham	s	10	50	Inverness	c	03
Blackpool	c	08	46	Jersey	c	11
Bristol	c	11	52	London	c	12
Cardiff	f	11	52	Manchester	f	08
Edinburgh	r	05	41	Newcastle	r	06
Glasgow	r	06	43	Ronaldsway	c	08

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, (55F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 8C (46F). Humidity pm, 80 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun 24hr to 6 pm, 1.0hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,007.6 millibars rising.
1,000 millibars=29.53in.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, (55F); lowest day max: Lerwick, 2C; highest rainfall: Morecambe, 0.83in; highest sunshine: Tenby, 3.8hr.

High tides

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4.30	7.0	4.59	7.2
Aberdeen	4.16	4.2	4.20	4.3
Avonmouth	10.07	12.8	10.38	12.3
Belfast	1.38	3.4	2.01	3.9
Cardiff	9.50	11.8	10.21	11.4
Devonport	8.44	5.4	9.18	5.1
Dover	1.38	6.6	1.59	6.3
Falmouth	8.14	5.2	8.48	4.9
Glasgow	3.35	4.6	3.42	5.1
Harwich	2.28	3.8	2.59	4.0
Holyhead	12.55	5.4	1.13	5.6
Hull	9.10	7.1	9.18	8.5
Ilfracombe	8.47	8.9	9.18	.8.5
Leith	5.24	5.4	5.52	5.3
Liverpool	1.49	9.1	2.11	9.2
Lowestoft			12.42	2.5
Margate	2.37	4.7	3.10	4.7
Milford Haven	9.08	6.9	9.38	6.5
Newquay	8.01	6.9	8.32	6.5
Oban	8 17	3.9	9.03	3.5
Penzance	7.50	5.5	8.27	5.2
Portland	9.36	2.2	10.26	1.9
Portsmouth	2.09	4.8	2.21	4.5
Shoreham	1 54	6.2	2.13	6.1
Southampton	1.34	4.5	1.44	4.4
Swansea	9.08	9.2	9.38	8.7
Tees	6.36	5.2	6.46	5.3
Walton-on-Naze	2.16	4.1	2.60	4 2

TOMORROW	AM	HT	PM
London Bridge	5.18	6.8	5.51
Aberdeen	5.13	4.0	5.16
Avonmouth	10.57	12.4	11.27
Belfast	2.34	3.3	2.58
Cardiff	10.40	11.4	11.10
Devonport	9.31	5.3	10.08
Dover	2.27	6.4	2.54
Falmouth	9.01	5 1	9.38
Glasgow	4.27	4.5	4.32
Harwich	3.16	3.7	3.50
Holyhead	1.51	5.2	2.06
Hull	10.00	6.9	10.07
Ilfracombe	9.39	8.6	10.12
Leith	6.18	5.2	6.48
Liverpool	2.42	8.8	3.04
Lowestoft	12.38	2.5	1.38
Margate	3.25	4 8	4 02
Milford Haven	10.00	6.6	10.31
Newquay	8.56	6.6	9.27
Oban	9 09	3.7	10.00
Penzance	8.41	5.4	9.21
Portland	10.19	2.1	11.12
Portsmouth	3.04	4.5	3.16
Shoreham	2.45	6.1	3.06
Southampton	2.26	4.4	2.40
Swansea	9 59	8.8	10.30
Tees	7.31	5.0	7.41
Walton-on-Naze	3.04	4.0	3.39

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; th, thunder.

		C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	f	14	57	Copenhgn	c	6	43
Akrotiri	f	18	64	Corfu	f	14	57
Alexandria				Dallas			
Algiers	s	19	66	Dublin	s	7	45
Amsterdam	c	9	48	Dubrovnik	s	14	57
Athens	f	16	61	Faro			
Bahrain	f	19	66	Florence	s	13	55
Barbados*	f	29	84	Frankfurt	c	9	48
Barcelona	s	19	66	Funchal	f	20	68
Beirut				Geneva	r	7	45
Belgrade	c	7	45	Gibraltar	s	17	63
Berlin	r	6	43	Helsinki	fg	2	36
Bermuda*	f	18	64	Hongkong	c	16	61
Biarritz	s	19	66	Innsbruck	r	3	37
Boulogne	c	9	48	Istanbul	r	12	59
Bordeaux	c	16	61	Jiddah	s	28	82
Brussels	f	11	52	Jo'burg	f	24	75
Budapest				Karachi			
Buen Aires*	f	26	79	Las Palmas	s	23	73
Cairo	s	20	68	Lisbon	s	13	37
Cape Tn	s	26	79	Locarno	c	3	37
C'blanca	s	19	66	L Angels*	f	14	57
Chicago				Luxembg	c	9	48
Cologne	c	10	50	Madrid	c	10	50

		C	F		
Majorca	s	19	66	Rio de Jan	
Malaga	s	17	63	Rome	s
Malta	s	16	61	Salzburg	c
Melbourne*	s	20	68	Sao Paulo*	c
Mexico C*	s	17	63	S Francisc*	r
Miami*	s	27	81	Santiago*	
Milan	s	4	45	Seoul	s
Montreal				Singapore	f
Moscow				Stockholm	r
Munich	c	7	45	Strasbourg	r
Nairobi	r	17	63	Sydney*	s
Naples	s	14	57	Tangier	
New Delhi	s	18	64	Tel Aviv	s
New York*	r	9	48	Tenerife	s
Nice	s	14	57	Tokyo	s
Oslo	c	1	34	Toronto*	sn
Ottawa				Tunis	f
Paris	c	12	54	Valencia	s
Peking	f	-3	27	Vancouver*	s
Perth*	f	31	88	Venice	c
Prague	c	5	41	Vienna	c
Reykjavik	sn	-6	21	Warsaw	s
Rhodes	th			Washington	
Riyadh	s	18	64	Zurich	r

* denotes Thursday's figures are latest available